

A measure of the effect of Hurricanes Carol and Edna.—From the bandings of juvenal Eastern Purple Finches last summer and fall by Mr. and Mrs. Parker C. Reed at Lexington, Massachusetts, it is possible to get a one-point measure of the effect of the hurricanes of 31 August 1954 (Carol) and 11 September 1954 (Edna) on a bird population. This may be done by comparing departures over short periods adjacent to the hurricanes with the weeks including hurricanes.

On the weekend of 21/22 August, 28 birds were banded of which 54 per cent were not present on weekend of 28/29 August or later. The weekend of 28/29 August, 20 birds were banded and 60 per cent were not present after 31 August. The rate of departure was, then, 11 per cent greater for the week including Carol than for the preceding week.

After 31 August but before 11 September, 37 birds were banded of which 68 per cent were not present after 11 September. For comparison, 59 per cent of the 49 birds banded on 12 September were not present thereafter, an increased departure of 15 per cent for the week including Edna.

Regardless of the degree of confidence we may have in an average increased departure of 13 per cent of Eastern Purple Finches due to a hurricane, we can, I think, conclude that the effect was relatively small.—Charles H. Blake, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

Celluloid color bands.—I have been able to secure some practical data on celluloid color bands made by Messrs. A. C. Hughes, 1 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, England. These are split ring bands, like the aluminum bands now used, and come in four small sizes and several colors. The makers provide a special device for opening and applying the bands. They must be cemented shut, easily done with acetone. Four larger sizes are available in coil bands ("fat bands").

Hughes type and size	Inside diam.	F and W size
Split PX.F	2.08 mm	O
Split PX.C	2.80 mm	1B
Split PX.B	3.69 mm	Between 1A and 2
Split PX.3	4.40 mm	Between 2 and 3
Flat band Size 1	5.62 mm	3A (plus 0.1mm)
Flat band Size 2	6.74 mm	Between 4 and 5
Flat band Size 3	8.35 mm	Between 5 and 6
Flat band Size 4	9.52 mm	6

I suggest sizes for some common birds as follows:

PX.F	PX.C	PX.B	PX.3
Chickadee	Downy Woodpecker	Catbird	Blue Jay
Tree Swallow	White Breasted	Robin	Thrasher
House Wren	Nuthatch	Baltimore Oriole	Starling
Goldfinch	Bluebird	Cowbird ♂	
Tree Sparrow	House Sparrow	Rose Breasted	
Chipping Sparrow	Cowbird ♀	Grosbeak	
Field Sparrow	Purple Finch	Evening Grosbeak	
Junco	Song Sparrow	Towhee	

The bands are made in solid colors, wide stripe (two colors each occupying about half the height of the band), and narrow stripe (five narrow alternating horizontal color stripes). Even the wide stripes are rather hard to make out at a little distance and the narrow stripes are not recommended.

Through the kindness of Professor Stanley Backer and Mr. Roland Derby, a series of bands representing almost all the available colors were subjected to 900 hours in a fadeometer (about 6 months of sunny weather). Black, white, yellow, and brown were unchanged. Orange, green, and dark blue were slightly bleached, red bleached to pink. Heliotrope, light blue, pink, and light green were severely bleached.

Dark blue, black, and probably brown would hardly be distinguished at a distance. Green and light green seem to be different only in their resistance to bleaching.

Abrasion is not consequential since the colors go clear through the celluloid.

The best selection of plain colors seems to be black, white, yellow, orange, red, and (dark) green. The following wide striped combinations of the foregoing colors are available: orange/white, yellow/white, black/orange, red/yellow, green/white, yellow/black, and black/white.

The plain colors (split ring) are 1/3 [18c] per dozen and the striped ones 1/6 [21c] per dozen.—Charles H. Blake, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

(See also Numbers 14, 15, 16, 20, 49)

1. A Survey of the Birds Ringed in Finland during the years 1913-1952. Göran Nordström. 1954. *Ornis Fennica*, 31(4): 116-130. In the four decades covered by this general report 128,046 birds of 197 species were banded in Finland. The totals of bandings and recoveries are tabulated by species and by families. *Larus ridibundus* heads the specific list in numbers banded with 18,995 individuals, followed in order by *Turdus pilaris* (8,646), *Sterna hirundo* (7,271), *Parus major* (6,253), and *Sturnus vulgaris* (6,031). The 3,734 recoveries, divided among 117 species, are 2.9 percent of the bandings. Of these 35 percent were taken in Finland, 65 percent in 46 different countries abroad. Germany reported the most bands (421), followed by Denmark (383), Sweden (291), France (282), and Italy (212). Finland's nearest and largest neighbor, the U.S.S.R., which certainly must take more of Finland's migrant birds than any other country does, reported only 41 for 13th place in the list.

Banding in Finland has had its ups and downs, which reflect the country's political and economic conditions. Very little banding was done during the two World Wars and in the years immediately following them. Before World War I the high year was 1914 with 1,396 bandings. The totals rose steadily from 656 in 1925 to a high of 12,288 in 1936. The program did not really start again after World War II until 1949, when 1,289 birds were banded. Since then it has increased rapidly. The 1953 totals of 14,830 passed all previous records, and at the time of writing more than 21,500 had already been reported marked in 1954. This is good news indeed, and we all hope the upward progress it signifies continues uninterrupted in the years ahead.—O. L. Austin, Jr.

2. Comparison of Recoveries from Reward and Standard Bands. Frank C. Bellrose. 1955. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 19(1): 71-75. Waterfowl banding records appear to offer a more valid approach to hunter kill than do comparisons of populations and kill figures. The principal weakness is the failure of many hunters to report bands. To obtain information on this project the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1948 issued a special series of reward bands. Over twice as many reward bands were reported the first year as standard bands, but the difference declined sharply. In 1949, 759 reward bands and 360 standard bands were used to mark Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) to determine the lethality of lead shot. There were 31.7 percent reward bands and 19.7 percent standard bands recovered. In 1950-51 the experiment on lead poisoning of Mallards was tried again with the reward bands marked \$2.00 Reward. Up to July 1954 there was an average of 2.2 times as many \$2.00 reward bands reported as standard bands. Recoveries compared for four regions in the Mississippi Flyway indicate there is some difference in the propensity of hunters to report bands. Canadian region hunters reported 1 standard to 1.92 reward bands; northern region reported 1 standard to 2.10 reward bands; central region reported 1 standard to 2.61 reward bands; and southern region reported 1 standard to 2.10 reward bands. Close proximity to banding stations has little effect upon percent recovered. On the average one hunter in three reports a standard band. It would appear that the kill of ducks by hunters is at least 2.5-3 times greater than that indicated by unrefined band data.—Keith M. Standing.