

76. Birds of France (Oiseaux de France). 1955. No. 13. 16 pp. Association pour l'Etude dans la Nature des Oiseaux de France et leur Protection, 129 Blvd. St. Germain, Paris 6, France. 100 francs. The major paper in this issue is an account of the "camp-outs" at the island of Ouessant, off Finisterre, August 12-24 and September 13-24, 1955. The group made systematic daily observations of the island's birds and banded 451 birds of 34 species. Interestingly, only 21 birds (11 of them Lesser Black-backed Gulls) were not strictly land birds. Discussion is not in the form of a checklist, but a report on the more notable species. Except for shearwaters and gannets, counts of pelagic and littoral forms sound disappointingly low. In contrast land birds, both resident and migratory, tended to be present in some numbers.

One senses arising, but seemingly well handled, those problems of sight identification which, unshackled, plague us in this country. Still being argued at the time of publication, for instance, was the probable occurrence of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*, (not at all impossible). Irrefutable photographs establish, fortunately, the presence of a Dartford Warbler, *Sylvia undulata*. Even more to the point is the absence from the list of banded species of a North American Water-thrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*, captured in a banding-net (extreme accidental).—Wendell Taber.

NOTES AND NEWS

To aid in meeting the increasing demand for Japanese mist nets, the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association is now stocking these nets for sale. At the time this issue is mailed, stocks will have been exhausted by the active demand, but substantial shipments are expected during the winter. Nets obtained to date have been a 12-meter, 4-shelf net for small birds, and a net with heavier meshes suitable for shorebirds or larger land birds. While prices are moderate, and discounts are given to members of the Association or subscribers to *Bird-Banding*, we hope that these sales will benefit our Index Fund. Address inquiries to Mr. E. Alexander Bergstrom (37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 7, Conn.), who is acting as agent for the Association in the sale of the nets.

The use of mist nets was essential to the Jamaican banding described in this issue. Dr. Blake has retired from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is now associated with the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. He plans to continue his Caribbean studies in six weeks on the Cayman Islands and Tobago during the fall migration.

An early issue of *Bird-Banding* will carry further papers by Dr. Blake on Purple Finches, one on females and one on juvenals. We are also looking forward to a paper on penguin banding in the Antarctic by Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr. We hope that a paper on detailed techniques of net handling can be included before long. It is still possible to give early publication to papers accepted.

Mr. Paul Schwarz of Caracas, Venezuela, writes that he banded nine Northern Water-thrushes (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) there in April, 1956, with one painted aluminum band on each leg. He is anxious to get reports on these. It appears that no numbered band was used, which rules out the chief possibility of hearing from these birds again. Even with numbered bands, the odds against any recovery are fantastically high. Down to about 1950, the banding records at Patuxent show 3,736 of this species banded, with no returns or recoveries (unpublished notes by the editor). For North American warblers in general, some 124,656 banded up to that time yielded 1,113 returns (.89%) and only 40 apparent recoveries.