

21 were successful in the first observed nesting. Three of these were later seen with second nests. Meanley and Webb (1963) show that their finding of a larger production rate of Red-wings in areas of Maryland than in an area in Wisconsin (Nero, 1956) is probably the result of more double brooding in Maryland. They observed second brooding in four color-marked Red-wings at areas on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 1960. Nero studied nesting of Red-wings in a marsh near Madison, Wisconsin. He writes "... double broods are uncommon in the Redwing in this area. Only three cases of double broods were recorded in this study (in 1949, all successful). In 1950, the year for which the most data are available, 20 marked females had successful first nests, but none of the females returned to the marsh for a second brood."

SUMMARY

Renesting and second nesting of 26 color-marked female Red-winged Blackbirds were studied in a area in the Coastal Plain of Maryland. All birds marked at nests with eggs before May 21 that did not successfully raise a brood renested (except three that disappeared soon after being marked). Three cases of second nesting were found.

LITERATURE CITED

- MEANLEY, B. M. and J. S. WEBB. 1963. Nesting ecology and reproductive rate of the Red-winged Blackbird in tidal marshes of the upper Chesapeake Bay region. *Chesapeake Science* 4: 90-100.
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GENERAL NOTES

A. C. Bent's application for a collecting permit (1887), with outline of his plans for ornithological research.—Arthur Cleveland Bent (1866-1954) was long known by many bird students as the Dean of American Amateur Ornithologists and as the author of the famous monographic series, "Life Histories of North-American Birds," published by the United States National Museum. This series, begun in 1919, was published throughout his lifetime (19 volumes) and is now being completed by his successors. He lived at Taunton, Massachusetts, where he was a prominent businessman and devoted his spare time throughout a long life to the study of ornithology. He was an Associate in Ornithology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology and a Collaborator at the Smithsonian Institution. He served as president of the American Ornithologists' Union 1935-37. His life was briefly sketched by Taber (*Auk* 72: 332-339).

As a young college student at Harvard University (A. B. 1889), Bent was given a permit to collect birds under the authority of the Boston Society of Natural History. The essential part of his permit reads as follows:

No. 284R

Boston Soc. of Nat. Hist.
Boston, July 3, 1886

"The Boston Society of Natural History, having received satisfactory evidence that A. C. Bent of Taunton is engaged in the scientific study of Ornithology and in the collection of wild birds, birds' nests and eggs for scientific purposes, does hereby, in accordance with Chapter 92 of the Public Statutes of Mass., grant him a certificate to the effect that he is so engaged, on the condition that he will faithfully observe his written promise to the Society to obey the letter and spirit of the laws enacted for the "Preservation of certain Birds and other Animals;" and in case of wanton destruction of birds or birds' eggs, or killing birds for merely ornamental purposes, or of any other breach of said promise, by the said Bent, this certificate shall be revoked, and notice of such revocation given in any manner the Society thinks best."

This expired on 1 May 1887, and Bent made application to the Inland Fish and Game Commissioners of Massachusetts for a new permit to collect birds and their nests and eggs. This Commission consisted of E. A. Brackett, E. H. Lathrop, and Frederic W. Putnam. In making a study of the Putnam papers, the writer came across Bent's application for a collecting permit, which reads as follows:

"To the Inland Fish and Game Commissioners of Mass.: I hereby respectfully submit my application for a permit to collect birds and their nests and eggs, which are now under the protection of the law. Of course, I should collect only for purely scientific purposes, as I have no motive or desire to destroy our native birds through a spirit of wanton destruction, for mercenary ends or for purposes of ornamentation. And should, as I always have done, observe the spirit and the letter of the law. I have collected in past years under the auspices of a permit granted me by Mr. Burgess of the Boston Society of Natural History, which you will please find enclosed. My small collection, consisting of slightly over 100 species of eggs and between 50 and 60 species of birds, has been made and arranged in a scientific basis; my specimens are labelled with full data containing all particulars of locality, identification, dates, and attending circumstances. I have also started a collection of the skeletal parts of birds to study the affinity between different genera and species and also individual variations in the same species. By careful and systematic study in this branch, I hope to be able to prove the fact that variations in species give rise to new varieties and perhaps to new species and genera. Of course, an extended and careful investigation is necessary to determine anything in this line; but as I intend to devote more or less of my life to this subject, I may disclose some facts of interest to science. At present, I am interested in writing a brief work on the birds of south-eastern Massachusetts, which is the only field in which I have had much experience. I intend the work to be merely a simple and truthful account of the birds occurring within the limits of Bristol and Plymouth counties, and have collected as much data on the subject as I could procure. I am a member of the Bristol Ornithological Club, in whose interest *The Ornithologist and Oologist* is published. If necessary, I can refer you for testimonials of character to the Mayor of Taunton, to Mr. J. Russell Reed of Boston, and to Mr. William Brewster of Cambridge, all of whom were of influence in obtaining my former permit."

This permit was acted upon favorably by the Commission. The word "granted" is written on Bent's letter in the handwriting of F. W. Putnam.—Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

New Trap Available.—Bird banders and all others who attract birds, have been consistently plagued by flocks of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) feeding on seeds designed to attract other species. As all banders know, House Sparrows are not the easiest bird in the world to catch, hence it was interesting to read the following item in *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*:

"... Paul Woodruff . . . writes . . . his farm is completely rid of House Sparrows. He is now host to nesting Bluebirds, Purple Martins, many Tree Swallows, Barn and . . . Cliff Swallows. All credit goes to a very effective Sparrow Trap made and sold by Johnson's, Waverly, Kentucky."

A visit to the farm in question in Lunenburg, Massachusetts to verify this remarkable piece of news proved it essentially correct. It was learned at that time that other bird species had been caught also.