

BIRD BANDING DEPARTMENT

Under the Direction of Wm. J. Lyon, Waukegan, Ill.

REPORT FROM THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Lincoln has made three field trips for the purpose of doing bird-banding work in your district. The first one during March, 1923, resulted in the banding of 489 ducks at the Sanganois Club near Browning, Illinois. The second trip, made during the fall of the same year, resulted in the banding of 1,338 ducks, while the third trip to the Beaver Islands, in northern Lake Michigan, in the month of July, 1923, resulted in the banding of 658 Caspian Terns and Herring Gulls. The following list indicates the number of banded birds that have been reported from the different states in the territory of the Inland Association from July 1, 1923, to February 1, 1924:

Michigan, 1452; Minnesota, 1175; Illinois, 1088; Ohio, 821; Wisconsin, 715; Iowa, 580; Sask, 560; Manitoba, 549; Indiana, 444; Missouri, 378. Texas, 278; So. Dakota, 243; Tennessee, 50; Kansas, 48; Alberta, 32; Ok'ahoma, 33—Total, 8,446.

HELP US FORM CHAINS

A suggestion comes from the Biological Survey that we urge every co-operator to endeavor to secure the interest of some person in his neighborhood who might establish a station that would form a connecting link with his own. In this way the basic idea of a chain of trapping stations would be carried out and you will readily see that if a suitable number of persons may be interested, it should ultimately be possible to establish a well connected chain of banding stations.

In selecting this person to co-operate with you, you should be very careful to find someone who has the ability as well as the suitable grounds. If you know of someone that is a desirable and would like to have the Inland Secretary take up the matter by mail, I will be glad to assist in any way that I can. If every co-operator will make an effort to find another person who is interested, or if they will just attempt to get some publicity in their local papers, it will all help the work very much.

We need more matter on Bird Banding. We are not getting enough support from the Banders, themselves, and would like more of the interesting incidents that happen at each banding station. We are very sorry that we are unable to get reports from all of the Banders so that our district total would be larger. As it is now, our district total is only of those that are willing to co-operate with us. Many of those that we write to, do not answer at all, but we feel that we have a report of all those who are interested in the work. If we try to make another report next year, we will have to have more support. In the meantime, please send in the interesting happenings of each season, and help us make this department a success.

"Many specimens of bird and marine life in the Miami, Florida, district," says a newspaper dispatch from that city "have been captured

and preserved for the Cleveland, Ohio, Museum of Natural History by Ernest G. Holt and Dr. George W. Crile, representatives of the museum. The birds will be mounted in and around the nests to reproduce the conditions under which they were secured. The scientists have, in most cases, three of the adult specimens, one male and one female, for mounting, and another adult for dissection and study. They also have a number of the small birds which were taken from the nests. The birds range in size from two tiny Hummingbirds to the huge Pelicans. Included in the display are a Man-o'-war Bird, Terns, Herons, Pelicans, Cormorants, Herring Gulls, and others. The scientists have three species of the Heron; the White Heron was especially difficult to take, as it required great patience on the part of the hunters. Mr. Holt is still in Miami collecting."

Professor Dayton Stoner has had published by the Iowa Academy of Science an article on "Behavior of Trapped and Banded Birds." Professor Stoner, as usual, has given here a delightful and very readable record of his experiences in this new and pioneer field of bird study.

Wm. I. Lyon, Waukegan, Illinois, reports the following: In December of 1921, Chickadees, Nuthatches, and 2 Downy Woodpeckers, were trapped and banded in two very crude traps. During the year of 1922 the traps were much improved but only 13 Chickadees, 8 Downy Woodpeckers, and I think, no Nuthatches were trapped. Nineteen twenty-three was a great year for improvement in the tree-trap business, and when the fall months arrived we were able to trap so many (9) Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 3 Black and White Creeping Warblers, and 92 Brown Creepers, but only 2 Chickadees, 9 Woodpeckers and 2 Nuthatches. During our observation on the Waukegan Flats, we had noted many Red-breasted Nuthatches, but never a one at the trapping station. For some strange reason, the Chickadees and the Nuthatches seem to have been absent from our district during the last two years.

Adolf L. Holm, Lundar, Manitoba, reports the following: "We had an occasion to move a house, of which a window was broken. On a ledge just inside the window was a Robin's nest with four young in it. I nailed a box on its side on a tree fourteen feet away and put the nest in it. For two days the parent Robins did not give their young anything to eat, although they were near-by with food for them. But somebody else gave them food. A wren had his nest a few feet away; when feeding his own babies he saw the hungry little Robins with their open mouths when he passed by. He also cleaned their nest, and the funniest of all he tried to sit on them, but as he was no larger than the Robins themselves he could not cover more than a small part of them. After the two days the parent Robins got enough courage to start feeding their young themselves, and chased the wren away from them, although the wren fed them once in a while when the Robins were not near; but soon quit when he got no 'thanks' from them for saving their young. No doubt the wren would have continued feeding the little Robins had their parents left them, but I am afraid that he would have had a hard time to get enough for them as he had eight babies himself to care for."