

## THE BANDERS' CORNER

## 1959 BANDING REPORT—J. BOLLING SULLIVAN, III.

During the year 1959 I banded 1,031 birds of 70 species. Of these, 8 were banded at Dauphin Island, 482 at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and the remainder at my home in Birmingham, Alabama. With the exception of 10 Starlings which were captured at night with hand nets, all of the birds were either trapped or mist netted. At the time of their capture, they were banded, measured, and weighed. Plumage notes were taken in most cases.

The birds captured in greatest numbers were: White-throated Sparrow, 246; Chipping Sparrow, 121; Grackle, 96; Cardinal, 72; Wood Thrush, 72. It is interesting to note that I captured all 4 species of *Empidonax*, commonly occurring in the East, in the early part of September. The two Traill's Flycatcher captures constitute the bulk of Alabama's fall inland records. A Western Sandpiper and a Black Skimmer were captured at Dauphin Island.

During the year I recaptured 110 birds which had previously been banded by myself, and which were classified as returns, (not having been caught within the past 90 days). They are listed below by species and by the number of years since their initial banding. Downy Woodpecker 1—1 yr., 2—3 yr.; Blue Jay 1—1 yr.; Carolina Chickadee 2—1 yr., 2—2 yr., 1—3 yr.; Tufted Titmouse 9—1 yr., 1—2 yr., 1—5 yr.; White-breasted Nuthatch 3—1 yr.; Brown-headed Nuthatch 1—1 yr., 1—5 yr.; Carolina Wren 2—3 yr., 1—4 yr.; Catbird 1—1 yr.; Brown Thrasher 1—1 yr.; Robin 1—1 yr.; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1—1 yr.; White-eyed Vireo 1—1 yr.; Pine Warbler 2—1 yr.; Kentucky Warbler 1—1 yr.; Yellow-breasted Chat 1—2 yr., 1—4 yr.; Hooded Warbler 2—1 yr.; Cardinal 13—1 yr., 1—2 yr., 1—3 yr.; Purple Finch 3—1 yr., 2—3 yr.; Rufous-sided Towhee 4—1 yr.; Slate-colored Junco 5—1 yr., 3—2 yr.; Chipping Sparrow 8—1 yr., 1—2 yr., 1—3 yr., 1—4 yr.; Field Sparrow 10—1 yr., 2—2 yr., 1—4 yr.; White-throated Sparrow 5—1 yr., 6—2 yr., 1—3 yr.; Fox Sparrow 1—1 yr.; Song Sparrow 1—1 yr.

Three birds which I banded at 3416 Sherwood Road, Birmingham, Alabama, have been recovered outside the state. They are as follows:

52-67641 Purple Finch. This bird was banded on the 11th of February, 1956. It was found dead in Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada, on the 2nd of July, 1957.

59-72363 Purple Finch. This bird was banded on the 31st of March, 1958. It was trapped and released at Cumberland Mills, Maine, on the 4th of April, 1959.

562-13016 American Robin. This bird was banded on the 28th of June, 1958. It was found dead in the grill of a truck at Perkinston, Mississippi, on the 8th of December, 1958.

—J. Bolling Sullivan, III, 3416 Sherwood Road, Birmingham 13, Alabama

## BANDING FOR 1959—THOMAS A. IMHOF

During the calendar year 1959, I banded 1,321 birds of 66 species. Of these, 583 were trapped Chimney Swifts and the balance (738) were mist-netted. In the vicinity of Birmingham, I banded 1,062 birds of 39 species and on Dauphin Island, 259 birds of 49 species. Besides Chimney Swift, the top 5 banded in quantity were: Savannah Sparrow, 316; Indigo Bunting, 50; Catbird, 33; and Magnolia Warbler, 31. Seven other species of which I banded 10 or more are: Am. Redstart, 23; Field Sparrow, 21; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 18; Eastern Meadowlark, 17; Common Yellowthroat, 16; Grasshopper Sparrow, 16; and Ovenbird, 10. These 12 species accounted for 1,134 individuals or all but 87 of the 1959 total.

Other interesting species banded were: Black Skimmer (adults), Common Snipe, all 4 species of *Empidonax*, Bobolink, Painted Bunting, and a total of 17 species of warblers.

Returns (banded birds recaptured at or near the place of banding after an interval of at least 90 days).—Chimney Swift, 6; Rufous-sided Towhee, 2; Savannah Sparrow, 21; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1.

Recoveries (banded birds recaptured 5 or more miles from the place of banding, or found dead anywhere, and at any time interval after banding).—Mourning Dove banded Dauphin Is., Oct. 16, 1959; shot at Jay, Florida, Dec. 9, 1959. Loggerhead Shrike banded Dauphin Is., Oct. 31, 1958; found dead there, winter, 1959. Common Nighthawk banded B'ham., Oct. 6, 1959; found injured in storm same place, same date, several hours later about a mile away. Starling banded B'ham., Mar. 18, 1955; found dead B'ham., June 4, 1959, one block away.

## BANDING REPORT—BIRMINGHAM—HARRIETT H. WRIGHT

Of the 266 birds banded in 1959, there were 19 species represented. There were 41 returns of which 8 had one previous return. The greatest number of one species banded was the Purple Finch, with 52; next, Chipping Sparrow, 38; Cardinal, 35; White-throated Sparrow, 32; Rufous-sided Towhee, 25. Of the returns, several birds proved to be 5 years old: 3 Cardinals, 2 Tufted Titmice, 1 Field Sparrow. One White-throated Sparrow was 4 years old.

## BANDING REPORT—GADSDEN—EDITH CLARK

From mid-March to mid-April, 1960, I had just a little time for banding, the total number being 86. There were 29 White-throated Sparrows, 1 Song Sparrow, 29 Purple Finches, and 1 Catbird. Others were permanent residents. I saw many banded birds during the winter months. Fox Sparrows remained "trap-shy".

I had these returns: 1 Catbird banded May 2, 1956; 1 White-throated Sparrow March 22, 1957; 1 Rufous-sided Towhee banded March 1, 1957; 1 Cardinal (M) banded Jan. 30, 1957; 1 Cardinal (M) banded Apr. 29, 1956; 1 Cardinal (M) banded Jan. 19, 1959; Cardinal (M) banded Jan. 30, 1957; 1 Carolina Chickadee banded Feb. 6, 1959; 1 Purple Finch banded Jan. 19, 1959; 1 State-colored Junco banded Jan. 12, 1959.

## BANDING REPORT—CONSERVATION DEPT.

For totals of birds banded by the Conservation Department, see the Regional Wingbeats report.—Ed.

## BANDING TOTALS—BROWNSBORO—JIM AND MARGARET ROBINSON

Dates—May 14, 1960—Aug. 12, 1960.

Total number of birds banded—43. Of these we had 11 Cardinals, 2 Loggerhead Shrikes, 1 Mockingbird, 8 Field Sparrows, 1 Catbird, 2 Tufted Titmice, 6 Red-eyed Vireos, 2 Hooded Warblers, 2 Carolina Chickadees, 1 Rufous-sided Towhee, 2 Wood Thrushes, 2 White-eyed Vireos, 2 Kentucky Warblers, 1 Black and White Warbler.

Thirty-nine of these birds were banded in our yard between August 6 and August 12, 1960. On August 8, 1960, we had a return of a female Towhee banded April 9, 1959.

## RECENT RECORD FOR HUDSONIAN CURLEW IN ALABAMA

The Hudsonian Curlew or Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*, breeds in the Arctic regions and migrates along the coast to its South American wintering grounds. However, nonbreeding individuals may be found in the summer along the Atlantic Coast from Virginia to Ecuador. Occasionally, sight records have been made in Alabama as the Whimbrel stops over to and from its breeding and wintering quarters. Howell (1928), lists a Whimbrel record on July 27, 1913, from the west point of Dauphin Island. Atkeson (1959), reports sight records from the Wheeler Refuge on August 26, 1940 and again on August 18, 1947, with the most recent record being February 13, 1959.

Between the period of July 14 through July 30, 1960, the author studied marine ecology at the State Department of Conservation Seafoods Division Laboratory at Cedar Point, Alabama. Only July 16 at the western end of Dauphin Island, a Whimbrel was observed feeding on a mud flat which extended into a tidal pool. Feeding with the Whimbrel were 7 Common Egrets, 1 Snowy Egret and 2 Louisiana Herons. The Whimbrel allowed the author to get within 75 yards before flying, but even then he flew to the opposite side of the tidal pool. Examination of the author's field notes indicates that a Whimbrel was seen at the same tidal pool on August 13, 1955. It is highly probable that this bird is more common than is realized, and additional sight records could be turned up by closer scrutiny of the proper habitats during the late summer and early spring months.

## LITERATURE CITED

Atkeson Thomas Z., 1959, Godwit and Curlew Records from Wheeler Refuge. Alabama Wildlife, Vol. 7, No. 1-2; pp. 10-11.  
Howell, Arthur H., 1928, Birds of Alabama. Birmingham Printing Co., Birmingham, Ala., p. 111.