

On the UNUSUAL side, we might list Whip-poor-wills, a Least Bittern and a nice flock of Black Tern. The first two above species are not unexpected, but Black Terns in December, January or February are extremely unusual.

This past week has been warm and the hint of Spring started our early nesters singing. Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, Doves, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers have begun their courtship antics. A few ducks are feeding in pairs; a pair of Barred Owls are nesting in my yard; and male Red-tailed Hawks are screaming defiantly at other males. Even turkey gobblers are sounding off to herald another Spring. "Ain't Nature grand?"

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THE BANDERS' CORNER

1960 BANDING REPORT — J. BOLLING SULLIVAN, III

During the year 1960, I was able to band 1,392 birds of 72 species. Of these, 434 were banded at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; and the remainder at Birmingham, Alabama. With the exception of five nestlings which were captured by hand, all of the birds were either trapped or mist netted. At the time of their capture they were banded, measured, weighed, and checked for fat deposition. In some cases plumage notes were taken.

The birds captured in greatest numbers were: Purple Finch, 239; White-throated Sparrow, 211; Slate-colored Junco, 175; Wood Thrush, 87; Field Sparrow, 55.

There was a noticeable decline in the number of Bluebirds and Cardinals banded, which is probably attributable to the weather of the 1959-1960 winter. On the other hand, this cold period produced an influx of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. In early September thirteen *Empidonax* Flycatchers were netted and once again all four Eastern species were represented. Three Screech Owls were banded, all being caught in the nets at dusk.

During the year 603 birds were recaptured which I had previously banded. Of these 133 were classified as returns (not having been caught within the past ninety days). These are listed below by species and by the number of years since their initial banding: Mourning Dove 1—1 yr.; Downy Woodpecker 2—1 yr., 1—2 yr.; Blue Jay 1—1 yr., 1—2 yr.; Carolina Chickadee 6—1 yr., 1—2 yr.; Tufted Titmouse 7—1 yr., 1—2 yr., 2—3 yr.; White-breasted Nuthatch 2—1 yr., 1—2 yr.; Brown-headed Nuthatch 1—6 yr.; Carolina Wren 1—1 yr., 2—2 yr., 3—4 yr.; Mockingbird 1—3 yr.; Wood Thrush 2—1 yr.; Hermit Thrush 1—1 yr.; White-eyed Vireo 3—1 yr.; Black-and-white Warbler 1—2 yr.; Kentucky Warbler 2—1 yr.; Yellow-breasted Chat 2—2 yr.; Hooded Warbler 3—1 yr., 2—2 yr.; Grackle 3—1 yr.; Cowbird 2—1 yr.; Cardinal 15—1 yr., 6—2 yr.; Purple Finch 8—2 yr., 1—4 yr., 1—5 yr.; Rufous-sided Towhee 5—1 yr., 1—2 yr., 1—5 yr.; Slate-colored Junco 1—2 yr.; Chipping Sparrow 3—1 yr., 2—2 yr., 1—3 yr.; Field Sparrow 7—1 yr., 4—2 yr., 1—3 yr.; White-throated Sparrow 11—1 yr., 4—2 yr., 2—3 yr., 1—4 yr., 2—5 yr.; Song Sparrow 1—1 yr.

Four recoveries (banded birds recaptured at a distance of five miles or more, or found dead) were recorded during the year. They are:

562-13087 American Robin. This bird was banded on April 24, 1959, at Ithaca,

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N. Y., and found injured at Clarkton, North Carolina, about January 25, 1960.

57-136181 Cardinal. This bird was banded on November 8, 1958, at Ithaca, N. Y., and found dead there on May 9, 1960.

623-32886 Grackle. This bird was banded on May 1, 1959, at Ithaca, N. Y., and found dead there on May 31, 1960.

562-13012 Brown Thrasher. This bird was banded at Birmingham, Alabama, on June 20, 1958, and found dead in Birmingham on May 17, 1960.

J. BOLLING SULLIVAN, III, 3416 Sherwood Road, Birmingham, Alabama

BANDING REPORT—BROWNSBORO—JIM and MARGARET ROBINSON

We finished 1960 with a total of 740 birds of 72 species banded. By January 24, 1961, we had banded 145 birds of 16 species. Our best day this year was January 1, when we netted 38 new birds and had only 13 repeats. Bad weather and illness cut down on our banding, and on the few days since that we have put up the nets, we have had more repeats than new birds. On January 21, we had 18 new birds and 37 repeats.

Species banded in greatest numbers this winter are: Slate-colored Juncos, 115; White-throated Sparrows, 64; Field Sparrows, 47; Fox Sparrows, 30; Goldfinches, 29; and Song Sparrows, 23.

Returns (10-4-60 through 1-21-61):

Tufted Titmouse, banded 8-6-60; returned 12-24-60.

White-throated Sparrow, banded, 3-30-59; returned 12-24-60.

White-throated Sparrow, banded 4-7-59; returned 12-24-60.

White-throated Sparrow, banded 3-28-59; returned 12-31-60.

White-throated Sparrow, banded 3-29-59; returned 12-31-60.

Field Sparrow, banded 8-6-60; returned 12-24-60.

Field Sparrow, banded 8-7-60; returned 12-24-60.

Carolina Wren, banded 3-23-60; returned 12-27-60.

Carolina Chickadee, banded 8-26-60; returned 12-31-60.

Cardinal, banded 8-29-60, as adult male; returned 1-8-61.

Cardinal, banded 10-7-60, as immature; returned 1-20-61, as sub-adult female.

Field Sparrow, banded 8-6-60; returned 1-20-61.

White-throated Sparrow, banded 4-3-59; returned 1-21-61.

Cardinal, banded 8-6-60 as immature male; returned 1-21-61, in adult male plumage.

Cardinal, banded 8-6-60 as adult male; returned 1-21-61.

Please note the 5 returns on White-throats banded in the early spring of 1959.

We banded only 19 White-throats here at that time, and have been surprised that so many have returned. There was also a recovery of another of the 19 last spring (1960). It was found dead in a neighbor's yard.