

TWO YEARS BIRD-BANDING AT WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA.

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Bird-banding was taken up as a recreational hobby and operations began in West Lafayette in the fall of 1924. There is no other station in West Lafayette, the nearest one being at Crawfordsville. The first capture was two bronzed grackles on September 29, 1924. As two and one-half months each summer have been spent away from West Lafayette, 20 months represents the actual period of operations.

In this time 633 captures have been recorded and 500 individuals banded. The 133 recaptures or reports are 21.4 per cent of the total number of captures.

The number of species represented is 32. Of these 12 species show no record of recaptures or reports. Several of these are represented by a single individual and only three by more than two individuals. The species with the largest number of individuals banded is bronzed grackle with 134, followed by chimney swifts with 84 (these represent a single catch), slate-colored junco 81, robins 39, bluejay 25 and white-crowned sparrows 22. The accompanying list shows the number of each species banded with recaptures and reports.

In recaptures robins lead with 32, one individual being recaptured eight times, the largest number for any single individual. Strangely enough, of all the species showing recaptures the bronzed grackle shows the lowest percentage, 6.7 per cent or 9 out of 134. The tufted titmouse shows the highest percentage of recaptures, 200 per cent, or eight out of four individuals banded. Of the species with no repeats or recoveries those with more than three individuals banded are chimney swift 84, all of which were banded at one time and no other captures attempted, tree sparrow 16 and red-headed woodpecker 6.

Two reports only have been received from other parts of the country. Mourning dove No. 284,059 banded April 19, 1925, was killed at Cameron, Texas, October 14, 1925. Bronzed grackle No. 284,062 banded April 23, 1925, was killed at Tupelo, Miss., February 15, 1926.

There have been a few returns to our traps the season following banding. Downy woodpecker No. 256,921 ad. ♀ banded December 20, 1924, was recaptured November 2, 1925, and again November 20, 1926.

There have been three returns from bronzed grackles. No. 285,414 ad. ♂ banded March 13, 1925, was recaptured in good condition April 26, 1926, being caught both times in the drop trap. Number 339,852 ad. ♀ banded April 4, 1925, was recaptured May 22, 1926. The band had in some way become lapped and made a depression on the leg. The band was readjusted before the bird was released. This bird had an unusually purple head, a characteristic noted both times it was captured. Number 284,055 banded April 13, 1925, was found dead on the Purdue campus July 16, 1926.

Slate-colored juncos have but one return out of 21 birds banded the first winter. Number 146,110 banded Dec. 22, 1924, was recaptured January 26, 1926.

House wrens show one return. Number A10,827 banded April 28, 1925, repeated May 4, 1925, and probably was one of a pair nesting in the yard. It was recaptured May 11, 1926, and again nested in the yard but in another wren house.

There are two returns for robins. Number 342,797 ad. ♀ banded June 5, 1925, was recaptured April 2, 1926. Number 342,784 ad. ♂ banded May 15, 1925, repeated May 17, 1925, and was recaptured March 30, 1926. This is our most interesting return. The note of the first banding would indicate that it was a perfectly normal male robin as there was no mention of any unusual features. When recaptured on March 30, 1926, it was about one-third albino, a very strikingly colored bird due to numerous large white patches. It had been noted in the vicinity since March 18 and was observed to be banded but its identification as robin No. 342,784 was a surprise. It evidently nested in the neighborhood in 1926 for it was later seen feeding young on the lawn and one of these was captured and banded June 9. Both will be eagerly watched for next spring.

Robins have mostly been caught during the nesting season or in snow storms. At other times the type of bait used does not seem to attract them. It is also interesting that in 1925 there were many repeats, one bird repeating eight times and two seven times each, seven of the 13 adults captured that year repeating. In 1926 only two of the 11 birds banded repeated.

Some interesting data have been obtained from the banded juncos. From October until well through December most of the birds captured have been new individuals with very few repeats. In January and February a large percentage of the captures are repeats. Again in March and April new birds are banded with very few repeats. Interesting repeats last winter were No. 78,168 ♀ banded December 19, 1925, repeated January 1, February 11 and 27, and March 27, 1926. Number 78,176 ♀ banded January 11, repeated January 14, 27, February 12 and 27, 1926. These results would seem to indicate that the earlier migrants in the fall winter south of West Lafayette, while later migrants stay with us all winter living in rather restricted areas. It is our hope to get further data on this species during the present winter and if possible similar data on other species.

Seven types of traps have been used mostly home made. In effectiveness the simple drop trap seems to lead with the government sparrow trap a close second. A drop front trap placed on a platform in a tree gives fairly good results for bluejays and tree climbing birds. Other traps are a tree trunk trap for tree climbing birds, a clover leaf type trap, which so far has not proved very effective and an "Everset" sparrow trap which has caught nothing but English sparrows and one house wren. A chimney trap for chimney swifts has been used once when 240 swifts were caught in it at one time. Unfortunately only 84 bands were available suitable for banding the swifts.

The bait used on the ground traps has been mostly bread and chick feed with sometimes sunflower and hemp seed. For the tree traps suet has been found the best.

Birds Banded at West Lafayette, Ind., Sept. 29, 1924 to Dec. 1, 1926

Species	No. Banded	Repeats and Returns	Species	No. Banded	Repeats and Returns
Bob White, <i>Colinus virginianus</i>	2	2	Tree sparrow, <i>Spizella monticola</i>	16	0
Mourning dove, <i>Zenaidura macroura carolinensis</i>	8	1	Chipping sparrow, <i>Spizella passerina</i>	3	1
Downy woodpecker, <i>Dryobates pubescens medianus</i>	7	9	Field sparrow, <i>Spizella pusilla</i>	1	0
Red-headed woodpecker, <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	6	0	Slate-colored junco, <i>Junco hyemalis</i>	81	27
Red-bellied woodpecker, <i>Centurus carolinus</i>	1	0	Song sparrow, <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	9	2
Flicker, <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	3	2	Lincoln's sparrow, <i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	2	1
Chimney swift, <i>Choetura pelagica</i>	84	0	Cardinal, <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	5	1
Bluejay, <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	25	7	Catbird, <i>Dumetalla carolinensis</i>	6	1
Cowbird, <i>Molothrus ater</i>	1	0	Brown Thrasher, <i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	13	9
Meadowlark, <i>Sturnella magna</i>	1	0	House Wren, <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	5	3
Baltimore oriole, <i>Icterus galbula</i>	7	6	Brown creeper, <i>Certhia familiaris americana</i>	1	1
Bronzed grackle, <i>Quiscalus quiscula aeneus</i>	134	9	Whitebreastednuthatch, <i>Citta carolinensis</i>	6	5
Savannah sparrow, <i>Passerculus sandwichensis savanna</i>	1	0	Tufted titmouse, <i>Bocolophus bicolor</i>	4	8
White-crowned sparrow, <i>Zenotrichia leucophrys</i>	22	7	Wilson's thrush, <i>Hylocichla fuscescens</i>	1	0
White-throated sparrow, <i>Zenotrichia albicollis</i>	2	0	Gray-checked thrush, <i>Hylocichla aliciae</i>	2	0
			Hermet thrush, <i>Hylocichla guttata pallasi</i>	2	0
			American robin, <i>Planesticus migratorius</i>	39	32

Total species 32

Total individuals 500

Total captures 633

Total recoveries 133 or 21.4 per cent of total individuals captured.

Species no repeats 12 or 37.5 per cent of total species.

