

A Summary of Bird-Banding Activities from April, 1941, to November, 1944

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In the spring of 1937 a Government Cooperative Bird-banding Station was started at St. Joseph's College, Collegeville, Indiana. During the first four years of its operation over 300 birds were banded and a number of these birds were recaptured a year or two later, either at our station or at some distance from our station. Then in April, 1941, I took over the management of this station, and since that time, with the aid of several of my biology students, have banded 6,308 new birds of 67 different species. Of these there were 14 species of which only a single bird was banded. These birds were:

Virginia Rail	Cape May Warbler
Sora	Magnolia Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Louisiana Water Thrush
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Yellow-throat
Red-headed Woodpecker	Yellow-breasted Chat
Migrant Shrike	Wood Thrush
Red-eyed Vireo	Gray-cheeked Thrush

There were also 25 species of which between one and ten birds were banded. They were:

Quail	5	Black-throated Green Warbler	2
Screech Owl	2	Ovenbird	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	Mockingbird	4
Belted Kingfisher	9	Winter Wren	3
Downy Woodpecker	6	Brown Creeper	5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	White-breasted Nuthatch	5
Kingbird	6	Black-capped Chickadee	9
Crow	7	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8
Baltimore Oriole	8	Veery	2
Tree Sparrow	5	Olive-backed Thrush	5
Chipping Sparrow	6	Hermit Thrush	2
Lincoln Sparrow	8	Bluebird	4
Myrtle Warbler	4		

There were 19 species of which from 10 to 100 individuals were banded, as follows:

Killdeer	18	Swamp Sparrow	63
Barn Owl	11	Fox Sparrow	11
Flicker	37	Red-eyed Towhee	29
Chimney Swift	16	Cardinal	64
Cowbird	26	Indigo Bunting	14

Red-winged Blackbird	43	Catbird	56
Bronzed Grackle	52	Brown Thrasher	57
White-crowned Sparrow	41	Tufted Titmouse	10
Field Sparrow	49	Golden-crowned Kinglet	22
Song Sparrow	73		

Of the following 6 species there were from 100 to 1,000 individual birds banded:

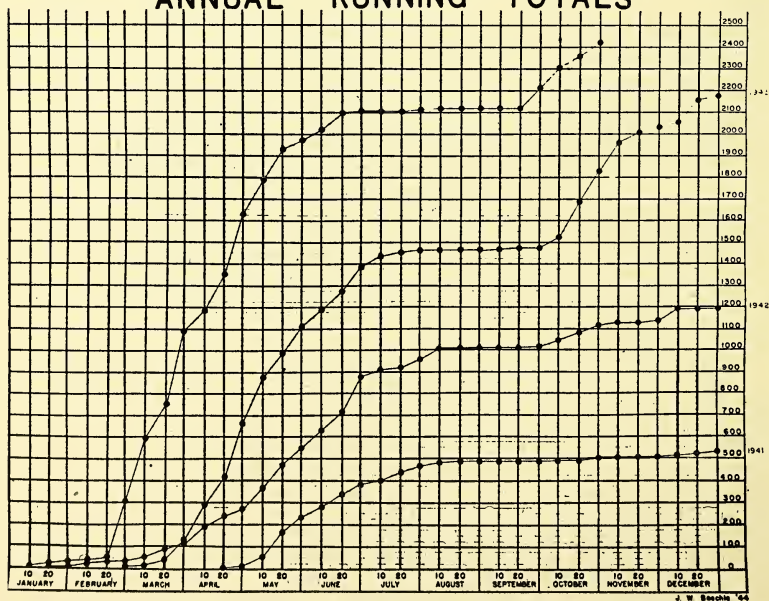
Mourning Dove	228	Barn Swallow	215
Blue Jay	117	House Wren	253
Purple Martin	267	Robin	662

Finally, there were 3 species of which over 1,000 birds were banded. They were:

Starling	1,101	Slate-colored Junco	1,251
White-throated Sparrow	1,400		

The chart illustrated in Fig. 1 shows the total number of birds banded year by year. This chart is brought up to date on the 1st, 10th and 20th of each month. In this way a fairly accurate comparison can be made between the total number of birds banded up to any date of any year recorded on it. The spring migration period followed by the nesting season, during which large numbers of nestlings are banded, always shows an abrupt rise in the graph. The later summer months usually

BIRDS BANDED AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, ANNUAL RUNNING TOTALS



show little activity because few birds nest so late and not many birds are trapped due to the abundance of natural bird food during this time. The fall migration, especially of White-throated Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos, likewise produces a sudden rise each year. The exceptionally large increase in birds banded during December, 1943, and February and March, 1944, was due to our banding of over 900 Starlings which winter on our campus. These birds were caught in our barns and silos at night with the aid of flashlight and net.

In the following summary of REPEATS, RETURNS, and RECOVERIES, it is well to bear in mind the specific meaning given to these terms in the banding of birds. A bird is called a REPEAT when it is caught at the same station within three months of its previous capture there. The presumption is that it has been in the locality all the time. A bird is called a RETURN when it is captured, (or found dead) at the station where it was originally banded, but after more than three months have elapsed since its previous capture. The presumption is that it had migrated to some distance from the station and returned. A bird is called a RECOVERY when it is captured, (or found dead) at some distance from the place where it was banded. It is in the above meaning that these terms are used in the following table:

Year	Newly Banded	Re-peats	Re-turns	Re-coveries	Number of Species
1937 to 1941	308	Not recorded	5	8	Not included
1941	528	154	11	3	29
1942	1192	285	28	2	44
1943	2173	909	27	4	46
1944 (Up to Nov)	2435	746	38	5	41
Totals	6636	2094	109	22	67
					(Excluding duplicates)

It is of special interest to note that 49% of the REPEATS were White-throated Sparrows, and 26% of the REPEATS were Slate-colored Juncos. It is also noteworthy that 18% of the RETURNS and 68% of the RECOVERIES were banded as nestlings. As a rule the banding of nestlings is frowned upon if not discouraged because of the low percentage of RETURNS and RECOVERIES usually obtained from banded nestlings.

The 109 RETURNS recorded at our station were made by 95 individual birds of the following 16 species:

Blue Jay	31	Song Sparrow	3
Purple Martin	14	Slate-colored Junco	3
Catbird	8	Downy Woodpecker	2
Brown Thrasher	7	House Wren	2
Starling	8	Bronzed Grackle	2
Robin	5	Mourning Dove	1
Cardinal	4	Swamp Sparrow	1
Tufted Titmouse	3	Cowbird	1

The difference between 109 RETURNS and 95 birds accounting for the RETURN records, lies in the fact that several individual birds returned on more than one occasion. They are as follows: 3 of the above Purple Martins, and two each of the following species returned to our station on two consecutive years, Catbird, Brown Thrasher and Blue Jay. There was one particular Blue Jay which returned during three consecutive years, and one Cardinal which returned four times.

As to the RECOVERIES, 13 of the 22 were found in either Indiana or Illinois. The following table gives the place of recovery, species, age when banded, and interval between the date of banding and the date of recovery of the birds, as well as the cause of death of the recovered birds:

Location	Species	Age	Interval	Cause of death
Indiana and Illinois				
1) Rensselaer, Indiana	Blue Jay	Adult	19 months	Shot
2) Near Rensselaer, Indiana	Bronzed Grackle	Adult	12 months	Shot
3) Francesville, Indiana	Broad-winged Hawk	Adult	2 weeks	Shot
4) Newland, Indiana	Mourning Dove	Nestling	31 months	Found dead
5) Kouts, Indiana	Bronzed Grackle	Nestling	13 months	Found exhausted and later died
6) Hobart, Indiana	Purple Martin	Adult	3 weeks	Found dead
7) Elmhurst, Illinois	Flicker	Nestling	11 months	Killed by flying into a window
8) Blue Island, Illinois	Red-winged Blackbird	Nestling	6 months	Found injured and later died
9) Monee, Illinois	House Wren	Nestling	13 months	Found dead
10) Victoria, Illinois	Robin	Nestling	12 months	Found dead
11) Tolono, Illinois	Starling	Adult	3½ months	Found dead
12) Paris, Illinois	Barn Swallow	Nestling	5 weeks	Found dead
13) Danville, Indiana	Mourning Dove	Nestling	13½ months	Found dead
Outside Indiana and Illinois				
1) Perth, Ontario, Canada	Starling	Adult	7 months	Found dead
2) Springfield, Ohio	Barn Owl	Nestling	4 months	Shot
3) Boynton, Florida	Mourning Dove	Nestling	20 months	Shot
4) Palm Harbor, Florida	Robin	Nestling	21 months	Shot
5) Nicholls, Georgia	Flicker	Nestling	17 months	Shot
6) Gray, Georgia	Robin	Nestling	22 months	Found dead
7) Brandon, Mississippi	Rusty Blackbird	Adult	7 months	Killed
8) Jeanerette, Louisiana	Robin	Nestling	9 months	"Found"
9) Osborn, Missouri	Barn Swallow	Nestling	22 months	Caught and released while nesting

It might be well to note that the smaller sized birds, such as White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, House Wrens and Barn Swallows, although banded in large number, are seldom recovered. Because the birds are small, and their bands likewise small and inconspicuous, they are not so readily noticed when they die. If there were more bird-banders active in the southern states we might have more chance to obtain recoveries on these birds from their winter homes.

In conclusion, I might mention that in the past year I have begun to take close-up portraits of a number of the species which we catch, and 22 of these portraits are now on exhibit in room 330 of this building. You are invited to visit this display after this meeting.