

Charles Bent, Bayfield, New Brunswick, possession of Sandpiper. Fine \$10.00 and costs.

James E. McDonald, Mira, Cape Breton Co., Nova Scotia, killing Scoters from a power-boat. Fine \$10.00 and costs.

Frank Wheeler, Dominion, Cape Breton Co., Nova Scotia, possession one "Ring-necked Plover." Fine \$10.00.

Robert Weaver, Doaktown, New Brunswick, in possession Pileated Woodpecker. Fine \$10.00 and costs.

Charles Grotto, Trenton, Nova Scotia, attempting to kill Greater Scaup Duck by use of power-boat. Fine \$10.00 and costs.

Daniel Levy, Little Tancook, Lunenburg Co., Nova Scotia, attempting to kill Black Duck by the use of a motor-boat. Fine \$20.00 and costs.

Harvey Cross, Big Tancook Island, Lunenburg Co., Nova Scotia, attempting to kill Black Ducks by the use of a "Sunken Boat." Fine \$20.00 and costs.

William Heizler, Oakland, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, attempting to kill Ducks by the use of a power-boat. Fine \$20.00 and costs.

William Murdock, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, attempting to kill Greater Scaup Duck by use of power-boat. Fine \$10.00 and costs.

Walter Winsloe, Trenton, Nova Scotia, attempting to kill Greater Scaup Duck by use of power-boat. Dismissed.

Alexander Grotto, Trenton, Nova Scotia, attempting to kill Greater Scaup Duck from a power-boat. Dismissed.

NORTHWEST GAME ACT PROSECUTIONS.

W. F. Dow, Fort Rae, Northwest Territories, possession two Musk Ox skins. Seizure.

D'Arcy Arden, Dease River, Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories, possession Musk Ox skins. Seizure.

BIRD BANDING WORK BEING TAKEN OVER BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.—

The Bureau of Biological Survey at Washington, D.C., has taken over the work formerly carried on under the auspices of the Linnaean Society of New York by the American Bird Banding Association. In taking over this work the Bureau feels that it should express the debt that students of ornithology in this country owe to Mr. Howard H. Cleaves for the devotion and success with which he has conducted this investigation up to a point where it has outgrown the possibilities of his personal supervision.

Under plans now being formulated this work will give a great amount of invaluable information concerning the migration and distribution of North American birds which will be of direct service in

the administration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as well as of much general scientific interest.

It is desired to develop this work along two principal lines;—first, the trapping and banding of waterfowl, especially ducks and geese, on both their breeding and winter grounds; and secondly, the systematic trapping of land birds as initiated by Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, the early results of which have been published by him in the *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York*, No. 31, 1919, pp. 23-55. It is planned to enlist the interest and services of volunteer workers, who will undertake to operate and maintain trapping stations throughout the year, banding new birds and recording the data from those previously banded. The results from a series of stations thus operated will undoubtedly give new insight into migration routes; speed of travel during migration; longevity of species; affinity for the same nesting-site year after year; and, in addition, furnish a wealth of information relative to the behavior of the individual, heretofore impossible because of the difficulty of keeping one particular bird under observation.

The details of operation are now receiving close attention, and as soon as possible the issue of bands will be announced, with full information regarding the methods to be followed and the results expected. In the meantime, the Biological Survey will be glad to receive communications from those sufficiently interested and satisfactorily located to engage in this work during their leisure time, for it is obvious that a considerable part must be done by volunteer operators. It is hoped that a sufficient number will take this up to insure the complete success of the project.—E. W. NELSON, *Chief of Bureau*.

MIGRATION STUDIES BY BIRD BANDING.—The work of bird-banding referred to above by Dr. E. W. Nelson, which is now being taken over by the U.S. Biological Survey, is a system of placing registered numbered aluminum bands on the legs of birds which are then liberated so if again taken information may be derived on their lives, habits and movements. The amount of exact information that might be obtained in this and in no other practical manner is very great indeed. For years we have each had ideas as to whether birds returned to their old haunts year after year, the permanency of their matings, ages, routes of travel, etc., but it was mostly guesswork and authorities disagreed. Under the bird-banding association organized under Mr. Harold Cleves and others some of these questions are in a fair way of exact solution.

Our own Jack Miner, of wild goose fame, whilst working independently of the bird-banding association has done considerable in this direction with the wild fowl. His geese banded at Kingsville,

near Lake Erie, Essex Co., Ontario, have been taken on the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey to North Carolina and along the east shore of James and Hudson Bay. He has had returns also from ducks from Louisiana and the Gulf States, north to Sault Ste. Marie and west as far as Alberta. These irregular (?) migration routes are of special interest in confirmation of the soundness of the view that proper protection of migratory game is an inter-provincial problem more than a local one and well within the logical field of federal authority.

The systematic trapping done by Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin mentioned by Dr. Nelson is a development of these activities and has opened up unlimited possibilities to the work. Normally but very few land birds banded are ever heard of again. In the work cited some surprising and valuable results have resulted from constant and systematic trapping of small birds within a limited area. A box trap made of fine meshed poultry wire is used which captures the birds without injury and from which they can be removed, banded and released, without other damage than a little passing fright. To show how evanescent this is Mr. Baldwin says that many individuals acquire what he calls "the trap habit" and return again and again, even many times a day, to the annoyance of the trapper, for the easily secured food supplies offered by the bait and they even wait patiently for the apparently expected liberation. All told he has so handled some five thousand birds in this manner and amongst the most interesting facts that the work has brought out are the following,—

Many birds do return to the same locality year after year but not always to the same spot. The chances seem to be about one in five, that at least one of a pair will return to the previous year's nesting site and about one in twenty-five that both will. In some cases birds that seemed to be the same as last season's friends proved to be entire strangers whilst the old marked ones were found nesting at some little distance.

The martial tie is somewhat looser in some cases than had been expected and not only do some birds often change mates from season to season but even for successive broods during the same season. A second brood in a nesting box was found to have one new parent whilst the jilted one was discovered helping to care for another family nearby.

It is also shown that as soon as the young are out of the nest they are usually taken immediately quite away from the vicinity. A family of young Wrens were found at the end of the first day some three hundred yards distant from their natal home.

The average daily range of many birds is surprisingly restricted. With traps set one hundred yards apart "repeaters," birds returning again and again to the trap, were rarely taken more than one trap away from their usual station.

Not only do birds return annually to their summer homes but to their winter ones as well and even along the way between follow the same locality stations year after year. Migrants merely passing through, have been taken on successive years, up to three, under the same bush.

Another bit of interesting evidence is on the actual mechanics of migration. It seems that the species studied do not pass along on their vernal and autumnal passages doing daily stints of travel, but pause for a while here and there where food is good and while the weather is fine, to pass on with, or just before, the storm that brings others of their kinds along.

All this is most interesting and valuable work and is such that many of otherwise limited opportunity can follow and, whilst indulging in a pursuit, fascinating in itself, amass a large amount of information of great popular, economic and scientific value. It is well that such important work is being directed by the experienced Bureau of the Biological Survey and that steps will be taken to extend its scope and correlate its results.

P. A. TAVERNER.

THE JAEGER AT SYLVAN LAKE, ALTA.—While living at Sylvan Lake, Alberta, this summer, I was fortunate enough in September, to observe a fine Jaeger attacking a Common Tern. This gave me a splendid opportunity to observe this unusual visitor. When finally the Tern escaped, the Jaeger settled on the water, and with my prism binoculars I was able to note its every feature. The upper parts were very dark while the throat underparts appeared to be a creamy white.

This is the second time I have seen this species at Sylvan Lake. In June, 1916, hearing an unusual note above the din of a large flock of Franklin gulls feeding in the bay, I saw what for the moment I took to be a fish hawk swooping about amongst the gulls, but as it poised above them for a second I was amazed to see the long middle tail feathers. Shortly after it settled on the water, and I watched it for a long time with my binoculars. I did not report this occurrence outside my own circle of friends, thinking I would not be believed, but, now with the advent of the second one I am glad to report this record for Alberta.—ELSIE CASSELS.



Taverner, P. A. 1920. "Migration Studies by Bird Banding." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 34(8), 158–159. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338004>.

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