

Bird-Banding for Uncle Sam

Photos from Biological Survey



Photo by J. Prentiss Baldwin

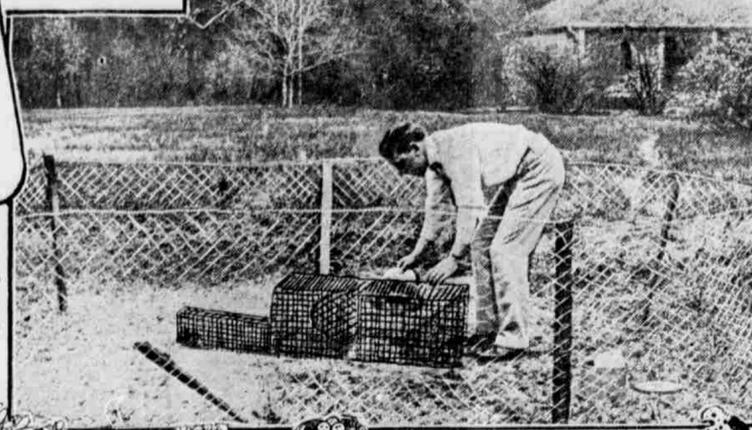


HOLD FOR READING BAND

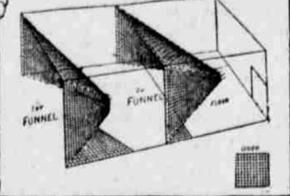
Photo by J. Prentiss Baldwin



BANDING LARGE BIRD



TYPICAL TRAPPING STATION



DETAILS OF SPARROW TRAP



HOLD FOR BANDING—Photo by J. Prentiss Baldwin

BIOL. SURV. 10510

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States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

With the establishment of a well-connected chain of trapping stations throughout the United States and Canada, regular "returns" are confidently expected through reports of retrapping birds that were banded at the original and other stations. Data thus afforded are already indicating the exact line of migration of individual birds, the speed of travel, and numerous items of interest, many of which have a direct bearing upon the study of life histories. A lively interest attaches to the work in that each operator of a station is in a continual state of anticipation through the knowledge that birds banded at other stations may at any time be registered at his own traps.

The bands issued by the biological survey are of two types, a split-ring band (sizes 1 to 6, inclusive) for all small birds, including those of the size of crows, small owls, and herons; and a flat-strip band that is adjustable for all larger birds. For general land bird trapping, the government sparrow trap has been found the most satisfactory. Other traps (there are several that may be purchased in the open market) may also give satisfaction, but there is a distinct advantage in having a standard type that birds may come to recognize as a source of food, and for this reason it is recommended that this trap be used.

The circular contains specifications sufficient to enable anyone with moderate skill in the use of tools (tin snips, pliers, file, and hammer) to construct the "government" sparrow trap in a few hours and at a nominal cost.

Problems that can be solved by bird banding include these:

How fast do the individuals of any species travel on their periodic migrations; that is, how many miles per day will any one bird average during these journeys and what is the total time consumed in a trip?

Does any one flock continue in the van or is the advance made by successive flocks passing one over the other in alternate periods of rest and flight?

Do individuals of any species always follow the same route, and is it identical for both spring and fall flights?

Do migrating birds make the same stop-overs every year to feed?

How long do birds remain in one locality during the migration, the breeding, or the winter seasons?

What is the relation between the breeding and the wintering grounds of individuals; that is, do those birds that breed farthest north winter farthest south, thus lumping over those that occupy the intermediate zone, or do they merely replace the latter individuals as winter residents?

Do birds adopt the same nesting area, nest site, and winter quarters during successive seasons?

For how many broods will one pair remain mated, and which bird, if not both, is attracted next year to the old nesting site?

To what extent do males of a species assist in incubation and brooding?

How far from their nests do birds forage for food, and after the young have left the nest, will the parent birds bring them to the feeding and trapping station?

To what region do the birds go, particularly the young, that do not return to the vicinity of their original nests?

How long do birds live?

For the solution of these and related problems, it is important that the traps always be set on the original site, for birds already have returned to the same traps through four or five consecutive seasons. Many "returns" will, in the course of time, afford answers to the important problems here presented.

In handling small birds the utmost care must be exercised. It is of vital importance that they be so handled that they may be liberated in perfect condition. Almost without exception they are highly nervous, and a quick pressure by the operator following some spasmodic struggle of the bird may kill it instantly or so seriously injure it as to make its destruction necessary. Further-

more, it must be remembered that if the data to be secured from the banding of birds are to be of value, the carriers must be strong and healthy and not handicapped in any way. Under no conditions may their movements be considered as average.

To remove a bird from the gathering cage for banding, reach into the cage (blocking the opening around the arm with the other hand) and work the bird into a corner. It will almost surely be facing away from the operator. Grasp it in such manner as to pluck its neck between the thumb and index finger, and the wing tips, tail, and feet by the little finger closed against the palm. In this position the bird may be held quietly, without using undue force. Strangely enough, securing the bird's head or neck will almost invariably cause it to cease struggling.

If the bird is already banded and only a simple examination is necessary, this position need not be changed, as with the fingers of the free hand the band may be readily turned and the number read. Or, the bird may be allowed to perch on the little finger, the neck secured between two fingers, as before.

To place in position for banding, grasp the bird's head lightly but securely with the thumb and the index and second fingers of the other hand; release all other hold and by quickly reversing the position of the bird, draw it through the free hand with its back against the palm and close the little finger over the neck, and the other fingers around the body. This position is exactly the reverse of the original one, in that the bird's feet, wings, and tail are now secured by the second finger, where formerly this was accomplished by the little finger against the palm. The thumb and index fingers are now free to secure and hold the tarsus while attaching the band.

For larger and more powerful birds this method will not answer, of course, but securing the bird's head will in almost every case prove the key to the situation. With ducks and other birds of similar size, this is best accomplished by resting the bird on the forearm and hand, held horizontally across the body of the operator, the head and neck passing to the rear under the upper arm, which secures them. This leaves both hands free to hold the feet and wing tips and attach the band.

Always select the smallest-sized band that will close around the tarsus (the bare portion of the foot or leg immediately above the toes) without fitting so tightly as to bind or chafe. The band should move freely up and down and turn lightly and smoothly, but it should not fit loosely like a bracelet. A pair of small, pointed pliers, such as opticians use, are practically indispensable for this work.

Do not attempt to band birds recently hatched or but a few days old; wait until they are fully fledged young birds and are about ready to leave the nest. The legs of most fully fledged young birds are larger and more fleshy than those of the adults, so that no allowance for growth need be made. Water birds are an exception to this rule.

Adjustable flat-strip bands, having considerable thickness and equipped with a special locking device, require rather more skill to attach. The pointed pliers, before mentioned, are absolutely necessary and in addition a pair of stout scissors or a pair of diagonal wire cutters will be needed to trim off excess length.

The band may first be roughly shaped around a finger and then opened sufficiently to admit the bird's leg. It is now pressed together and its diameter reduced to the point where it fits smoothly. The second pair of nbs from the lock end are next bent over and pinched tight with the pliers. The strip is now bent back, the bend pinched together as close as possible, and locked with the first pair of locking nbs. The excess length of the band is then trimmed off and the end pressed down smoothly with the pliers.

See that the number is on the outside. Attaching these bands requires care and patience, for the stiffness of the metal is sufficient to break a bird's leg if not properly handled—put all pressure on the band and not on the leg and there will be no trouble.

Write down the band number at once; do not trust to memory. A band wrongly read may totally disqualify what otherwise would be a most valuable set of data. Each collaborator should keep a permanent record of his operations.

Report results frequently. Franked envelopes will be supplied for returning the schedules, which during the busy season should be at least once each month.

DEMAND FOR TANLAC BREAKS ALL RECORDS

Amazing Success Achieved by Celebrated Medicine Not Only Phenomenal, But Unprecedented—Over 20,000,000 Bottles Sold in Six Years—Foreign Countries Clamor for It.

Never before, perhaps, in the history of the drug trade has the demand for a proprietary medicine ever approached the wonderful record that is now being made by Tanlac, the celebrated medicine which has been accomplishing such remarkable results throughout this country and Canada. As a matter of fact, the marvelous success achieved by this medicine is not only phenomenal, but unprecedented.

The first bottle of Tanlac to reach the public was sold just a little over six years ago. Its success was immediate and people everywhere were quick to recognize it as a medicine of extraordinary merit. Since that time there have been sold throughout this country and Canada something over Twenty Million (20,000,000) bottles, establishing a record which has probably never been equalled in the history of the drug trade in America.

Fame is International.

The instant and phenomenal success which Tanlac won when it was first introduced has been extended to practically every large city, small town, village and hamlet in North America. Its fame has become international in its scope and England, Japan, Mexico, Cuba, Hawaii, Alaska, Porto Rico and many European countries are clamoring for it.

From coast to coast and from Great Lakes to the Gulf, Tanlac is known and honored. Millions have taken it with the most gratifying and astonish-

ing results and have pronounced it the greatest medicine of all time.

Tens of thousands of men and women of all ages in all walks of life, afflicted with stomach, liver and kidney disorders, some of them of long standing, as well as thousands of weak, thin, nervous men and women apparently on the verge of collapse, have testified that they have been fully restored to their normal weight, health and strength by its use.

Restored to Health.

Still others, who seemed fairly well, yet who suffered with indigestion, headaches, shortness of breath, dizzy spells, sour, gassy stomachs, coated tongues, foulness of breath, constipation, bad complexion, loss of appetite, sleeplessness at night and of terribly dejected, depressed feelings, state that they have been entirely relieved of these distressing symptoms and restored to health and happiness by the use of Tanlac.

Tanlac is sold by leading druggists everywhere.

Get Many Silly Complaints.

Every day the postmasters in the larger cities receive countless letters of complaint. Not unnaturally among so large a number there are many of a frivolous nature. For example, one woman wrote that the carrier who delivered her letters was engaged to a woman twice his own age, and requested that he should be asked to break off the engagement or be dismissed.

Question Answered.

"Hello, old top. New car?"
"No! Old car, new top.—Lafayette Lyre.

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A South Dakota Case

J. W. McElderry, retired carpenter, Webster, S. D., says: "I suffered with terrible pains in my back and loins. The kidney secretions did not pass regularly and were painful. Inflammation of the bladder kept me a wake nights. I had to get up often to pass the secretions. I became all run down. Doan's Kidney Pills rid me of the trouble."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 60c a Box
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
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Soothed With Cuticura
Soap 25c, Ointment 25 and 50c, Talcum 25c.

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Would Choke a Horse.

Interviewer—"What is your favorite role?" Leading Man—"The one I get on salary day."

A Feeling of Security

You naturally feel secure when you know that the medicine you are about to take is absolutely pure and contains no harmful or habit producing drugs.

Such a medicine is Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, kidney, liver and bladder remedy. The same standard of purity, strength and excellence is maintained in every bottle of Swamp-Root.

It is scientifically compounded from vegetable herbs.

It is not a stimulant and is taken in teaspoonful doses.

It is not recommended for everything.

It is nature's great helper in relieving and overcoming kidney, liver and bladder troubles.

A sworn statement of purity is with every bottle of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root.

If you need a medicine, you should have the best. On sale at all drug stores in bottles of two sizes, medium and large. However, if you wish first to try this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.

Country Without Scenery.

When the projected trans-Australian line from Oodnadatta to Port Darwin is completed the traveler on it will be confronted with what will be, probably, the dreariest railway journey in the world. The greater part of the route lies through a desert region, practically devoid of life, and utterly uninteresting.

Sure Relief

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6 BELLANS Hot water Sure Relief
BELLANS FOR INDIGESTION