

BIRDS' HABITS TO BE STUDIED BY UNCLE SAM

Government Bureau Asks Aid
of All Who Have Time and
Knowledge.

USE TRAPS AND BANDS

WASHINGTON, July 5.—To follow the travels and adventures of individual birds which wander over a large part of a continent, and sometimes of two continents, would seem an impossible undertaking; but the United States biological survey is now preparing to do this very thing.

Dr. H. C. Oberholser, who told us about it, and other ornithologists at the bureau, are confident of obtaining results of the greatest importance and interest.

The method by which this study is to be carried on is that of banding the birds—that is, catching them in traps, marking a record of species, age, sex and place of capture, then placing a band with a number and address on it about the leg of each bird and releasing it again.

When this bird is recaptured, or in the case of a game bird, perhaps killed, something is learned of its travels and habits and the length of its life.

When one bird is caught repeatedly, or when a number of birds of a certain species have been caught, a great deal may be learned about the habits of that kind of bird, and the information so gained, especially about the travels of the birds, will be of the greatest practical value in the work of regulations and international treaties on the migratory bird law which has given such wonderful results in the increase of migratory birds.

It is known, for example, that many birds travel from North America to South America and to the West Indies, and it is expected, when more information about these migrants has been gained by trapping, to make treaties with these nations similar to that which we now have with Canada for the protection of these birds.

**PROTECTION OF BIRDS
MOST IMPORTANT.**

But the immediate and practical value of the studies is the smallest part of their interest to the scientists. They say that as the work progresses and the number of birds under observation increases, numerous facts will be discovered about their habits which can not now be foreseen.

The science of ornithology heretofore has been engaged largely in the preliminary work of identifying and classifying the birds.

Little systematic study has been given to their habits. The work of classification was of course necessary, but only as a preliminary to the study of bird habits. This latter study which really increases the value of birds to man, by teaching him how to protect those that are of value and get rid of those that are not.

The importance to man of two great groups of birds—those that destroy insects and those that furnish food and sport—can scarcely be overestimated, and it is these that will be studied first.

The bird banding is not an experiment that has been carried on in Europe for about twenty years, and in the United States for at least half that long by the American Bird Banding association, the work of which latter organization is now being taken over by the United States government.

The biological survey is now asking for volunteers to help carry on the work, and anyone who is interested should get in touch with their bureau.

The survey will furnish the bands and instructions how to trap, handle and band the birds, but the expense of the work must be borne by the individual.

The survey hopes to establish strings of "trapping stations" across and up and down the country, so that it will get reports from all sections.

Persons who live in the country or in the city who are interested in birds, and who know by sight the various species in their own neighborhoods are qualified for the work—in other words you must be a pretty good amateur ornithologist to do this work, and you must have the patience to carry it on for a long period of time in order to get valuable results.

If you are willing and able to do this, you have now an opportunity to make a real contribution to the science.

EVIDENCE ON FAIRFIELD BIRDS

The methods of bird trapping have been perfected, and some remarkable results already obtained by members of the American Bird Banding association. Special credit is due to S. Prentiss Baldwin, a wealthy man who has one country place in Ohio and another in Georgia, and who has carried on bird banding operations in both of these places for a number of years.

Limits of space will not permit of a detailed account of Baldwin's work, but some of the results he has obtained may be recounted to show how little is actually known about the habits of birds, and how this method of exact study gets at the truth.

5 Civil Courts Close for Summer Vacation

The five superior courts of Marion county as well as the probate court were in vacation today until the beginning of the fall term on Sept. 7.

Commissioner M. Bash has announced that an adjourned term will be held Aug. 2 to take care of emergency matters.

The circuit court, presided over by Judge Louis Erbark, is in vacation until the regular fall term, but there will be an adjourned term on July 10 to permit Charles Moores to sit as a special judge in a case.

Judge Erbark will be in his chambers to take care of emergency matters.

The criminal court is in full blast with many jury cases, including a murder trial, set for trial this month.

Judge Lahr of the juvenile court will continue his session during the summer as usual.

For example, have often been cited as examples of birds affected.

The male and female work together to build the nest and raise the brood, and it has been said of many species that each bird sticks to the same mate year after year.

This beautiful legend may be true of some birds, but Mr. Baldwin demonstrated that it is not altogether true of wrens. He banded a pair of nesting wrens on his Georgia place and later in the season captured both of them again.

Each of the wrens had at that time taken a new mate and was engaged in raising a new family.

One of the questions that has long puzzled ornithologists is whether birds travel each year the same routes in their migrations and spend the winters in the same places. Mr. Baldwin found this to be exactly true of certain species.

The same white-throated sparrows came year after year to his place in Georgia, spending successive winters not only in the same vicinity, but literally about the same bush.

**WRENS HAVE
CHARACTER.**

Mr. Baldwin used in his operations the government sparrow trap, which injures the birds very little or not at all, and he found that they were not badly frightened by being captured.

Many birds were captured again and again, and some of them even insisted on spending most of their time in the trap, where there was plenty of food.

He was surprised to find how much individual character the birds had.

Thus one sparrow which he captured repeatedly came to know as a fighter, for it would always peck and bite at him, and when he was very fierce when he took it in his hand.

But another bird of the same species showed an equally consistent character as a squaler, never offering to fight but always lifting up its voice in long lamentations.

Baldwin also established to his satisfaction the fact that migrating birds do not travel a certain distance each day when on the move, but linger wherever the food is good.

If going south they nearly always do so when a storm approaches, reasoning them to believe that although it has not stopped the weather, the birds were unable to determine whether the birds recognize the signs in approaching storm and travel of it, or whether they travel in it.

wild ducks, geese and shore-

birds are among the most important species to be studied by this method; they are of the greatest value for food and sport, and their protection under modern conditions depends upon an accurate knowledge of their migration habits.

A member of the bird banding association at Windsor, Ont., has been trapping and banding birds for many years and has perfected the method so that the scientists say they will have no difficulty in banding thousands of these birds, and in solving many of the mysteries of their far travels.

This is probably the first and certainly the greatest co-operative national effort in the study of bird habits ever undertaken, and it should have the support of all who have the knowledge and the time to help.

Jazz Music Plays Havoc With Worth

WILMINGTON, Del., July 5.—Entertainment among workers in the plant of the Lorillard Company here has increased 20 per cent since the inauguration of a continuous musical program during working hours.

A gratifying feature of the innovation is that while classical or semi-classical music has been found beneficial "jazz" has proved detrimental in efficiency.

A player piano has been installed in the wrapping department of the plant, rolls have been purchased and the girls of capture, then placing a band with a number and address on it about the leg of each bird and releasing it again.

Playing and singing is practically continuous.

Each week new rolls are bought and each week a singer from the service organization teaches the girls a new song.

"It works wonderfully well," said Mr. Edward F. Eaves, manager of the company.

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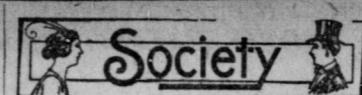
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Members of the Den Zare club are holding a house party at Blue Bluff's on the Fourth of July. Mrs. W. H. Blackburn, Mrs. C. A. Brewer and Mr. and Mrs. Ward E. Jones are chaperones.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Burns, 418 East Fifteenth street, announce the engagement of their daughter, Juanita Emerald, to Harry F. Bernstein.

Miss Leona Crawley, 3734 North Illinois street, has gone on a trip through the east, where she will stop in Atlantic City, New York and various other cities.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Pickens, 1908 North New Jersey street, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Edna Jane, to Clifford W. Foote. The wedding will take place in fall.

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