

fourth, a Spotted Towhee, a Brown Thrasher and a House Wren; on the fifth a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Black and White Warbler, a Red Start and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

A SUCCESSFUL BANDING SEASON ENDS

Arthur Ward, Burnham

Now that November has come with the bright sunny days of an Indian Summer, the birds have left us for the South. It is strangely silent in the Grove - no flashing of wings in the sunlight, - no twitter from the tree top. The last bird to leave was the Junco, on October 30.

Small drifts of snow, scattered here and there since the nineteenth of October had provided the birds with water. Weed seeds, now available on the roadside prevented further concentration around the traps. Observation in migration commencing the last week in August showed a preponderance of immatures. Outstanding among these were the White Crown and the Clay-coloured Sparrows. No adult birds seemed to accompany the small flocks which very noticeably arrived during the night. Repeated trappings showed that some species, such as the Harris, White Crown and Tree Sparrows and Juncos stayed here about two weeks, while others took off after a few days.

Another feature was the congregating of the smaller birds of different species. They flitted around the grove together and seemed more easily caught in this manner. 71 species were observed here during the trapping period from March 1st to October 31st. The total number of birds caught was 1212, consisting of 412 House Sparrows, 31 other birds released without bands, 47 Hungarian Partridge released without bands and 722 birds of 47 species banded.

The species banded were as follows:

Tree Sparrows	51	Orange Crown Warbler	2
White Crown Sparrows	104	Wilson's Warbler	1
Song "	7	Palm Warbler	1
Lincoln "	14	Magnolia Warbler	1
Clay-coloured "	128	Red Start	2
Vesper "	7	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4
White Throated "	25	House Wren	11
Harris "	15	American Gold Finch	5
Chipping "	50	Least Flycatcher	1
Savannah "	2	Western Flycatcher	1
Slate-coloured Junco	44	Pine Siskin	13
Olive-backed Thrush	25	Barn Swallow	4
Hermit Thrush	10	Willet	4
Varied Thrush	1	Purple Finch	1
Northern Water Thrush	1	Cedar Waxwing	1
Robin	40	Tyrannus Kingbird	3
Redwing Blackbird	36	Arkansas Kingbird	2
Cat Bird	28	Brown Thrasher	4
Baltimore Oriole	2	Downy Woodpecker	1
Yellow Warblers	44	Pine Grosbeak	1
Myrtle Warbler	17	Townsend's Solitaire	1
Maryland Yellow-throat	1	Yellow-shafted Flicker	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	Crow	1
Audubon Warbler	1		

BIRDS

Correction:

In our last issue Mr. Ward was reported as having banded 26 Cowbirds. It should have read "26 Catbirds." Mr. Ward remarks, "A noose around a Cowbird's neck would be more befitting than a band on its leg."

THE PLEASURES OF THE YEAR

Elizabeth Cruickshank,
Regina

(Editor's note: The following article is one which thrilled me as it cannot help but thrill our readers who find so much pleasure in the study of Nature. Mrs. Cruickshank has the ability, not only to see and find pleasure in those things which many of us would pass by unnoticed, but to express the thoughts which they awaken in her in a poetic and pleasing style. She and her little dog and the wide open spaces open our eyes to the fact that "Nature should be a personal adventure in discovering a living world, for in that fashion is best kindled an awareness of the vast storehouse of the priceless treasure that surrounds us and an intense eagerness to find out more about these treasures.")

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With winter just around the corner we can enjoy in retrospect the pleasures of the year.

If you really want to enjoy spring on the prairie, miss one. I know. For me the spring of '48 was all second-hand; but not the spring of '49.

Early in May found me in our beloved country - the Valley. There on a high hill with Craven flats before us - an exuberant crowd of geese and swans splashing in a narrow strip of fresh water to the north - there in a sheltered sun-drenched depression were Crocuses in profusion - a carpet of Moss Phlox - Prairie Onions and Blue Violets raising their heads to the blue sky above - Pussy Willows beyond them.

I knew then - I felt as Tennant felt;

"Hungry for spring I bent my head
The perfume fanned my face
And all my soul went dancing
In that little lovely place."

Water attracts more birds than food, I sometimes think. But food makes for repeat visits. Last winter a few Bohemian Waxwings stopped in our yard to bathe in the rubber tire bath. I put out some chopped dried fruit mixed with oatmeal and suet. A dozen Bohemians were soon busy eating. Every day for three weeks more and more came to dine and splash. I shall never forget the sight of them on the snow, nor the soft trilling song of contentment that followed as they sunned themselves in the trees. I had hoped for a return visit but none came.

As if to make up for the failure of their wandering relations putting in an appearance, a pair of Cedar Waxwings nested in our hedge. It was interesting to watch them all summer long. We thought they would go before the first cold spell - but they seemed loath to leave. But one warm day we were surprised to hear excited splashing. From the open kitchen window we watched the seven Waxwings, flitting in and out of the water - sunning themselves in the honeysuckle, then going back for another splash. All the while the English Sparrows tried over and over again to join the Waxwings in their bathing orgy. They weren't allowed near. Then to our amazement, with all seven busy enjoying the last little bit of water that was left - in walked a wee Ruby-crowned Kinglet,