

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 marital 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.