

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The response to the questionnaire enclosed in the August issue has been most gratifying. Nearly fifty replies have been received to date, and each mail brings an additional response or two. Those members who have not yet had the opportunity to prepare their form are urged to do so as soon as possible.

The questionnaires are proving of value in two ways. First, they provide a wealth of information about the members of EBBA themselves which will be of invaluable assistance to your Editor. Second, the specific comments directed toward EBBA NEWS will aid in planning future issues. To each member who has submitted his questionnaire, the Editor sends personal and heartfelt thanks! Incidentally, various facts gleaned from an analysis of these questionnaires will provide interesting material for use in EBBA NEWS, so actually, this project will serve a dual role.

* * * *

Mr. Harry T. Davis of the North Carolina State Museum at Raleigh suggests that it might be interesting to publish in the NEWS a summary of the banding of young colonial birds along the east coast each year. The Editor agrees, and he requests that each member who has done any colonial banding this past season drop him a postal, listing the following: location (state and county), date, species, number of young banded, and estimated size of colony. Try to get this card off by September 30 at latest. Also, don't forget that schedules for such birds were due in the banding office September 1. Have you sent yours in yet?

* * * *

Data for the Robin symposium, announced last issue and scheduled for the November issue, should be sent to the Editor's wife. It is hoped that material for this purpose will be in her hands by October 15 at the latest. Even if you think that your data on this species is inconsequential, please send it in, especially since this is a species which is not banded in the large numbers characteristic of the Junco and White-throated Sparrow featured in earlier symposia.

Reference to the White-throated Sparrow symposium (March 1950) and the Junco symposium (May-June 1951), will give many members an

idea of the type of information which is needed. For the benefit of newer members, we shall summarize the types of data wanted:

- 1) Recoveries, giving exact locations of banding and recovery, exact dates, and any other data available.
- 2) Returns and repeats at banding station.
- 3) Weights and measurements, and age and sex determination data.
- 4) Infestation with parasites; illnesses and other defects.
- 5) Types of traps used; bait preferred; locations of traps; behavior at traps.

In other words, practically anything pertaining to this species should be worked up and sent in. The more complete the information received, the better will be the resulting summary. Remember this is a cooperative project, the success of which depends on each bander!

* * * *

Material for use in EBBA NEWS has been coming in a little more rapidly of late, and it is expected that with the October issue we shall be able to add another sheet of four pages to each issue. However, the continuance of this policy will depend on your regular contributions. It is likely that the innermost sheet will be done by a process other than straight mimeographing so that it will permit the reproduction of trap plans to illustrate the series on traps which we promised in the August number.

* * * *

WHAT IS THE SMALLEST RELATIVE SIZE OF AN INFERTILE EGG?

by Harold B. Wood, M.D.

On a banding expedition with James Stanley Quickmire of the South Jersey Audubon Center near Cape May Court House, New Jersey, I was taken by canoe to the sand flats below Stone Harbor. These tidewater flats are as extensive as the mudflats below Beach Haven, New Jersey, but at the time they had a different avian population. Over the minute sand dunes about a hundred Black Skimmers hovered noisily while we banded several nestlings.