

But the rise in importance of bird banding in the field of biological study should impress us, as scientific cooperators, with the importance of our work, our record-keeping, and our bird banding techniques. The painstaking trapping and banding of hundreds of birds can be lost in a lost record-book or in hurried notations which cannot be deciphered. The hasty reading of a band, the reliance on memory rather than pencil and paper, the identification of a bird by an assistant, and even the failure to use bifocals (when you pass your 40th birthday) are all pitfalls that lead to scientific errors.

If the backyard bander is to continue to hold his place in the field of college trained biologists, he must do so by turning in the same standards of record-keeping, observations, and trapping techniques. Actually the "backyard bander" often does a better job. He can devote more time to his banding, and keep mortality and morbidity at a minimum. He has time to learn something of the behavior of individuals, before and after banding. And he has a much better opportunity to study family relationships than the professional bander.

When the new banding manual is available, new banders will have an authoritative text to consult. Until the manual is in our hands however, new banders should not hesitate to call on more experienced banders in their own neighborhood, or through the pages of EBBA NEWS, for advice and assistance. Your President has never known any bander who turned a fellow bander down when he asked for help.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE AND AGED SLATE-COLORED JUNCO AT ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Arthur H. Fast reports that on February 27, 1956, he banded a Baltimore Oriole. It was first observed on February 24. It appeared almost daily (some days many times) thereafter until late March and then less frequently until it was last noted on April 24. It fed exclusively on peanut hearts. It was trapped a second time on March 15 and thus positively identified as the same bird. Dr. John W. Aldrich identified it as probably a female or possibly a young male. It was in unusually
in unusually dark plumage.

On February 1, 1947, Fast banded a Slate-colored Junco. It has returned to the place of banding each winter, except one. It was last trapped and released in apparent good condition on December 11, 1955 - on which date it was more than 9 years old. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service advises that this is one of a few of the oldest Juncos of which they have any record. Both birds were trapped on the Fast home place, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Virginia.

CATBIRD RETURNS AT AGE 8

Raymond J. Middleton, of Norristown, Pa., reports - Had a fine Catbird return this summer. Banded as an immature July 16, 1948; returned April 30, 1950; May 11, 1951; May 5, 1952; April 27, 1953; June 9, 1954 and May 8, 1956. My oldest previous Catbird was six years. This was and is a consistent repeater and doubt if it was on the place during 1949 and 1955.

We have had numerous instances with this and other species also where birds banded as immatures that did return to us, did not return until the second year after banding. Note that in the Song Sparrow article I list 11 such birds.

AN UNUSUAL ROBIN RECOVERY

by June R. Conway

An Eastern Robin (Turdus m. migratorius) which I banded at Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, as an immature on July 7, 1954, was reported shot at Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico, on February 3, 1956.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, all the previous recovery records of Eastern Robins have been confined to Florida, Georgia, and, less frequently, Alabama and Mississippi, as well as points north and eastward.

On the other hand, the A.O.U. Check-list indicates that the eastern race of this species winters south to Nuevo Leon, Mexico, some 250 miles north of the present record. Also, the Check-list records are based upon specimens shot in a given locality, in which the area of origin is inferred from the plumage, size, etc., of the bird in question. On the other hand, this record may be the first time in which it can be definitely established that a bird hatched in the East (Pennsylvania) actually has been taken in Mexico, and this even farther south than the range given for the race in the Check-list.--Route 4, Easton, Penna.