

Suggested projects and methods of analysis. This again is an important section, but need not be exhaustive. Reference to the better banding papers now being published will help a great deal. The section should include a list of species on which Patuxent sends copies of all recovery reports to some one individual, preferably giving name and address. There are eight Passerines in this group now, perhaps one or two more.

Aging and Sexing. This could be an extremely important section. Dr. Blake has been thinking of setting up data sheets, species by species, showing what we know on these points and where we need more data and study.

Bibliography. This would not attempt to be exhaustive, but could be extremely useful, perhaps under subheadings corresponding in part to the sections of the manual itself. Mrs. Austin writes that the WBBA has a small committee working on this. Here again help from a great many people will be useful.

534 ROBINS IN A YEAR

By Ralph K. Bell

I believe that habitat plays a very important part in the trapping of Robins. I agree with Dr. H. B. Wood that nestlings disperse widely soon after they leave the nest. If the habitat is suitable, I feel they are more likely to be trapped as they move about the country.

During the year 1955, 534 Robins were banded within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of our house at Clarksville, Greene County, Pa. We live about a mile from a small town. Our yard is a little over an acre in size with a stand of young evergreens on one side. These evergreens, I might add, are very attractive to Robins. Two other main places for trapping Robins are a small woods $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the house and a farm pond where Robins enter traps set mainly for Killdeer, Sandpipers and Meadowlarks. These traps are not baited - just a heart-shaped trap set along the water line.

The "All Purpose Trap" with dripping water catches by far the most Robins. Two of these traps are in the yard and two are in the woods. The traps in the woods have two drip pans in each. I sometimes feel that the more water the more attractive the trap seems to be, not only to Robins but other birds as well.

Of the 534 Robins banded, 63 were nestlings, 34 classified as local, 276 as immatures, 49 adults and 112 either adults or immatures. After September 16 the young birds began to look like adults so some of these were not classified.

Not counting nestlings,

7 were banded in March
 12 " " " April
 22 " " " May
 66 " " " June
 94 " " " July

104 were banded in August
 86 " " " September
 44 " " " October
 15 " " " November
 21 " " " December

Pertaining to traps,

395 were caught in water-drip traps
 34 " " " Killdeer traps at dam
 11 " " " grain baited traps
 20 " " by using other baits
 11 " " in buildings or unbaited traps

There were 159 retraps, one nestling was retrapped 12 times and one adult six times.

Of the 63 nestlings banded, 27 or 43% were later caught in traps. These 27 nestlings were retrapped for a total of 58 times. One nestling stayed around for 53 days, with the average being 22 days. No nestling returned as yet in 1956, but 5 known immatures did, also 17 banded as adults in 1955 have returned thus far in 1956.

The two best days in 1955 were August 26 when 14 were banded and September 24 when 16 were banded. The best individual trap was a water drip trap on the edge of the pines in the yard. 195 were banded in this trap. Over half were caught before noon. Several were caught during and soon after a rainfall.

Perches are placed in each trap. Birds do not try so hard to get out when they have a perch, therefore there are fewer injured bills. Elderberry canes make good perches.

This year Robin bandings are slightly behind last year - 240 compared to 252, up to and including July 29th.