

That this mortality is so insignificant to the species does not justify any slackness in our efforts to minimize deaths arising out of our use of traps or nets. It does justify us in accepting this minimum mortality as the necessary consequence of our effort to extend man's knowledge of the world around us.

While the supply lasts, I will be glad to send, upon request and without charge, a copy of the July, 1956 issue of Bird-Banding, containing the article referred to above, with a discussion of the relative advantages and disadvantages of nets and traps. I will also be glad to furnish information on price and availability of mist nets. For the past year, a paper on the use of nets, in much more detail than anything yet printed, has been under preparation for Bird-Banding, and we expect it to appear in the 1957 volume.

Data on mortality at the Austin Ornithological Research Station were supplied by Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., to whom I am also indebted for reading the first draft and offering suggestions. He is in agreement with the point of view expressed.

HAND-REARED WOOD DUCKS NEAR UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

For several years, Mr. and Mrs. William Grayson have reared Wood Ducks in an outdoor cage on their 500 acre farm near Upperville, Va. This outdoor cage is roughly triangular, 80' x 60' x 60', 8' high, and contains a pool of water. In 1956, they reared approximately 30 Wood Ducks, comprising 3 broods. They put in a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that 25 of their total of 37 Wood Ducks be banded - the remaining 12 to be retained as breeders. The request for banding was referred to Arthur H. Fast, Arlington, Va.

How were the ducks to be captured for banding? On August 11, Fast equipped with a dip net and a teen-age boy to operate it, drove to the Grayson farm. Ralph E. Lawrence, nature photographer of Washington, D.C. accompanied the expedition. On the previous night, Mr. Grayson had captured the ducks and put them in small cages; he did not get to bed that night until 3:30 A.M. The 25 birds were banded without delay, and were released on the farm pond. Some of them swam to cover; others flew away. Mr. Lawrence took some colored film of the banding operations and of the release of the ducks. The Graysons treated all present to a bountiful lunch. A short visit ended a pleasant and profitable day.
