

## PROBLEMS THAT TRAPPING-STATION OPERATORS MAY SOLVE

(At the suggestion of several members, we are here printing excerpts from the out-of-print MANUAL FOR BIRD BANDERS. Additional reprints will occur in future issues. -- Ed.)

The solution of problems concerned with the distribution and migration of North American birds is the primary object of bird banding, from the viewpoint of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and in this every station operator is a potential factor. A great many problems are ready at hand for the attention of each cooperator, any one of which, when worked out to a logical conclusion, may furnish the basis for an important contribution to ornithological science. When possible, two or more operators should undertake the solution of the same problem for the same species. ... The appearance in print of a report from one station setting forth certain conclusions based upon information obtained at that point should not discourage other cooperators from repeating the work at their stations.

The questions given below may suggest possible fields of investigation for individual station operators or for two or more stations operating in the same general region. Other problems will continually come to attention.

Migration. - What are the arriving and leaving times? How long will individuals of different species remain at the station? Is departure before or after a storm? Is the same route followed in successive seasons? Is the same route followed in spring and fall flights? Is travel continued daily or only when weather conditions are favorable? Do males, females and young travel together, or if separately, which comes or goes first? Is there much return to the same nest or nesting locality? Is there much return to the same winter quarters? What proportion of adults and young return, regardless of seasons? Are the same stopovers made in succeeding seasons? Do some individuals of a species remain sedentary while others of the same species pass over them in migration? Do adults or young make any postnuptial migrations to the north before starting south?

Personality. - Do individual birds have peculiarities in appearance, habits and manners? (Banded birds are individuals and should be studied as such. Some will be wild, others tame and gentle; some will always fight, others will scold or squeal; some will exhibit courage or daring, others will show fear; some will give characteristic notes or even sing under stress of excitement. All of these and many other items have a bearing upon bird psychology, and should be watched for and carefully investigated.)

-- To be continued.

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