

thrown away or given to an uninterested library as the family might be tempted to do.

This also brings up the question of what we want done with our bird books, files of EBBA NEWS and BIRD-BANDING, etc. Our traps should be given or sold to another bander or be destroyed lest they get into the wrong hands.

I offer these thoughts for what they are worth, both as an aid to better record keeping and as a possible help to our families at a trying time.

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A DICKCISSEL AT ROCKAWAY, N.J.

By Gail C. Cannon

On December 1st, 1957 we had in our traps a Dickcissel. It was an immature bird which we thought would be a male on maturity. We banded it and released it. It repeated in the traps on December 5th, 12th and 15th. Then on March 15th, 1958 it returned to the traps, at which time it was definitely developing into a male bird. That return was within a day or two of our big snow storm when the snow was 26" deep in the open. At that time the left foot had been frozen and the toes were healing, but together, and the right leg was quite shriveled. The bird seemed on the road to recovery, so we released him after making note of his condition. We kept a generous supply of food handy for him at all times.

On April 30th he repeated, in the nets this time. Then he had no toes on either foot and he had a hole about 1/8" in diameter in his abdomen. The hole was healing and he was plump and bright-eyed, so we released him again.

He repeated on May 15th in the nets. At that time his right leg was off 1/8" below the heel and the band was gone. The left leg was the same as before, the hole in the abdomen all healed over.

This bird remained at the feeding station until early in June. He had difficulty in landing, always taking a head stand at first. After his motion was stopped he propped himself up on his wings to eat. He looked well fed and bright so we kept plenty of food out for him. He had spent his time with a flock of House Sparrows. That was the last we saw of him. Tragedy probably overtook him.

After watching him all spring, who among us had any troubles?

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