

for sections E, F and I. Sections C, D and K should be fairly complete. As soon as this first part of the new manual has been completed, it will be sent to all active banders.

RESEARCH ON BLACKBIRDS Brooke Meanley, Biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, writes: "Again we are requesting bird club members to serve in a cooperative blackbird roost survey, with the objective of locating all blackbird roosts, particularly those containing redwings and grackles, in the Atlantic coast states between December 15, 1959, and January 30, 1960.

"Estimates should also be made of the size of the roosting populations by species. Information of this kind would contribute greatly to our current research program on blackbirds, specifically on the distribution of winter bird concentrations and an estimate of total eastern United States blackbird population.

"We also wish to thank EBBA members who participated in the cooperative redwing nestling banding program this past spring."

Readers of EBBA NEWS who locate or learn of a blackbird roost should immediately notify Brooke Meanly, at the Patuxent Research Refuge, or your Editor, who will transmit the information.

OPERATION RECOVERY ON LONG ISLAND

By Leroy Wilcox

Nets were operated at Tiana Beach for 52 days, from August 25 to October 31, 1959, inclusive, with the assistance of Walter Terry for two thirds of the time, Geoffrey Gill for 1½ days, and my 12 year old grandson David Tuttle for one day. Tiana Beach is about midway between the east end of Shinnecock Bay at Southhampton, where the mainland comes right down to the ocean beach, and the west end of the bay at Quogue, where the mainland again comes down to the outer beach.

We banded 3170 birds of 87 species in 4073 net hours (maximum nets 15). The principal species were: 766 Myrtle Warblers (84 on October 15), 513 Slate-colored Juncos (99 on October 5), 423 Song Sparrows (82 on October 16), 280 White-throated Sparrows, and 115 Golden-crowned Kinglets. We had seven returns and 541 repeats. The rarities were: Bell's Vireo on September 25, three Lincoln's Sparrows, Snow Bunting, Labrador Savannah Sparrow and Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow. This is probably the first Bell's Vireo to be banded in New York State, as I understand there are no specimens for the State.

On October 15 we netted two Myrtle Warblers with "foreign" bands. One had been banded on September 19, 1959 at Algonquin Park, Ontario, Canada, and the other was banded in Massachusetts, but as yet I have

not been advised as to when and specifically, where. Algonquin Park is about 450 miles in a straight line from Tiana Beach but I would guess the bird probably reached the coast up in New England before reaching the coast of Long Island in the 26 days since banding.

One of our 92 Flickers, banded on October 14 at 5:52 p.m., repeated again on October 15 at 8:40 a.m. and was found stunned by hitting a window at Riverhead on October 16 at 11:30 a.m. The bird probably went west four miles to Quogue (see location of Tiana Beach in the first paragraph), then north eight miles to Riverhead. At Tiana Beach, Shinnecock Bay is about 1½ miles wide and I have not noticed any land birds flying north across the bay. This is the first evidence I have of a bird leaving the outer beach and going inland. The bird recovered and flew away a few minutes later.

From my experience of two seasons of netting on the south shore of Long Island, when I have caught about three times as many birds per net hour in October than I have in September, I would recommend that more banders net later into October. Below is a table of birds netted in 1958 and 1959, for September and October.

1958 (Average 1.56 Birds per Net Hour)

<u>September (4 days)</u>			<u>October (10 days)</u>		
<u>No. of Birds</u>	<u>Net Hours</u>	<u>Birds per Net Hour</u>	<u>No. of Birds</u>	<u>Net Hours</u>	<u>Birds per Net Hour</u>
228	261	.87	1279	705	1.81

1959 (Average .77 Birds per Net Hour)

<u>Aug.-Sept. (26 days)</u>			<u>October (26 days)</u>		
<u>No. of Birds</u>	<u>Net Hours</u>	<u>Birds per Net Hour</u>	<u>No. of Birds</u>	<u>Net Hours</u>	<u>Birds per Net Hour</u>
648	1873	.34	2522	2200	1.14

This netting on the outer beach has been a real surprise to me. In 40 years of birding out here I have not seen as many chats as I caught this year (16) and of this number only one was seen as a free bird before or after netting. The rare or unusual birds and the numbers of some other species has been a real surprise. Of course the best bird so far was the Sage Thrasher last year, caught on October 18, 1958, the second record for the bird east of the Mississippi River; the first was collected at Rochester, N. Y. on April 12, 1942.

Speonk, Long Island, N. Y.
