

REDPOLL & SISKIN BANDING ROUND-UP Mrs. Elinor McEntee is compiling banding records of this winter's invasion of Redpolls and Pine Siskins, and requests all EBBA members who have banded either or both of these species this year to send their 1960 totals to her as soon as possible. Results of her compilation will be published in the next issue of EBBA NEWS. Figures for 1960 bandings of Redpolls and Pine Siskins should be sent to Mrs. McEntee, 490 Fairfield Ave., Ridgewood, N.J.

MEASUREMENTS OF CARDINALS Mrs. E. A. Beddall, 2502 Bronson Road, Fairfield, Conn. is making a study of the measurements of Cardinals at the northern edge of their range, and would like to have, from any bander who can furnish them, measurements of Cardinals and any other information of which banders may have kept a record, such as dates - early and late, sex ratios, and breeding data such as egg dates, clutch size, number hatched, and number of broods. Any such information would be very gratefully received and should be sent to Mrs. Beddall at the above address.

OPERATION RECOVERY AT CASTINE, MAINE

By M. C. Morse, Jr.

Castine is located on a peninsula extending into Penobscot Bay, from the northeast. This location apparently makes it a meeting point for birds migrating down the Penobscot River Valley and others migrating down the coast. About half of the peninsula is spruce forest; the rest is open area with numerous alder thickets, hedgerows, raspberry and blackberry tangles. Nearly all the netting was done in the latter area.

Nets were operated sporadically during August and almost every day during September and October. My wife and I banded 1149 birds of 57 species in a total of 654 net hours - maximum nets, 10, but usually not over six. The principal species banded were 344 Song Sparrows, 173 White-throated Sparrows, 123 Common Grackles, 114 Slate-colored Juncos, and 79 Swainson's Thrushes. We had three returns (excluding resident species) and about a 20% repeat rate (some repeats of migrants of over a month). The rarities included three yellow-breasted chats in mid-September; a Swainson's Thrush on October 18th; an Indigo Bunting on October 6th; and four Saw-whet Owls in October - certainly an indication of a rather heavy flight.

During August and September the nets were set primarily in alder thickets and blackberry tangles; in October they were moved out into fields and hedgerows. Most netting locations were about half a mile from Penobscot Bay. During the week the nets could only be operated early in the morning; the weekend average, generally about six hours. In October most of the netting was confined to a one acre lot which had been plowed in the spring and had grown up to wild mustard and other weeds. This natural food supply was augmented this year by cracked corn; about three