

reasons for this subordination of territorial instinct may be simple pressure of numbers. But also, in the more usual Redwing breeding area, the birds nest in about the center of their territory, and are thus surrounded by their own feeding area, which would be of less value to them if other Redwings were also allowed to feed in it. However, at Tuckerton a bird on a nest has only one direction in which to go to feed, which is straight out to the marsh: it is by no means surrounded by its feeding area. As far as feeding is concerned the birds need be oriented in only one direction, rather than in all directions; this may be one of the principal factors which caused Tuckerton Redwings, presumably identical in makeup to other Redwings, to lose to a large extent their territorial instinct.

Undoubtedly, a great deal of further observation and study of the Tuckerton Redwings is necessary before amplifying this theory much further - and we hope to be able to do so - but indications at present seem to support these reasons for the dense breeding population here. One might say in passing that this is a good example of the many avenues of study which are opened through banding.

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at THOMASTON, MAINE

Frederick V. Hebard, of Philadelphia, Pa., writes "I suggest you plan to band next year at Thomaston. After my experience this summer I can say with great deal of confidence that except possibly in Chatham and vicinity on Cape Cod, Thomaston has a greater shorebird migration than any place on the eastern seaboard north of Pea Island, N.C. It was absolutely fantastic what we saw there; the numbers and variety were tremendous. . . . The birds arrive on the full moon in July, August and September in greater numbers than at other times." ***

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