

CAPTURING SLEEPING FLICKERS (cont.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>In Nets</u>	<u>On Poles</u>	<u>Total Banded</u>	<u>Total Seen on Poles</u>
Sept. 1	1	-	1	-
7	-	-	-	1
13	1	-	1	-
15	4	1	5	1
16	4	-	4	-
19	2	-	2	1
20	3	-	3	-
21	9	2	11	13
22	7	1	8	1
24	-	1	1	2
25	20	4	24	7
26	3	1	4	1
30	2	-	2	-
Oct. 1	23	4	27	8
2	15	4	19	10
3	3	1	4	2
4	-	1	1	1
8	5	4	9	5
9	4	6	10	8
10	8	1	9	1
11	7	5	12	6
12	4	1	5	1
13	3	4	7	7
14	1	-	1	-
15	-	1	1	1
18	1	-	1	-
19	1	-	1	-
23	-	1	1	1
24	-	1	1	1
25	1	-	1	-
Totals	132	44	176	79

Oceanic Duck Farm, Speonk, L. I., N.Y.

ARE DESCRIPTIONS OF
VARIANTS OF VALUE?

Mabel Gillespie
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Recently I captured a bird which I felt ought to be a Tree Sparrow but which lacked the "stickpin." There should not have been either a Chipping Sparrow or a Field Sparrow about on March 23. Furthermore this bird had the characteristic Tree Sparrow bill: dark above and yellow below. Fortunately I was able to find in Forbush the following: "this spot very rarely double and still more rarely wanting." Maybe we could ask banders for descriptions of such variants. Would they be of value?



Who Banded What?

Edited by Lillian Cardinali



Some of the outstanding 1962 banding results by EBBA members appear below. Shame on those of you who haven't yet sent your figures to Lillian Cardinali! But it's not too late -- and we hope all laggards will get their figures to her without further delay -- Ed.

Leach's Petrel	Charles Huntington (Maine & Gull Is.)	2678
Double-crested Cormorant	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	334
Great Blue Heron	Dr. & Mrs. R. Gammell (N.D.)	7
Little Blue Heron	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	6
Black-crowned Night Heron	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	21
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	4
Pintail	Dr. & Mrs. Gammell (N.D.)	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Benedict (Pa.)	5
Broad-winged Hawk	Robert Leberman (Pa.)	2
Sparrow Hawk	J. Douglas Whitman (N.Y.)	27
Osprey	Leroy Wilcox & Walter Terry (N.Y.)	7
Bob-white Quail	" " " " " "	28
Ring-necked Pheasant	Dr. & Mrs. Gammell (N.D.)	78
Sora Rail	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	7
Semipalmated Plover	Betty Knorr (N.J.)	25
Piping Plover	Wilcox & Terry (N.Y.)	61
Killdeer	Joseph A. Grom (Pa.)	8
Ruddy Turnstone	Betty Knorr (N.J.)	29
Woodcock	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	4
Common Snipe	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	8
Pectoral Sandpiper	" " " " " "	8
Spotted Sandpiper	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	10
Solitary Sandpiper	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	7
Least Sandpiper	" " " " " "	20
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Betty Knorr (N.J.)	485
Western Sandpiper	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	12
Sanderling	Betty Knorr (N.J.)	69
Great Black-backed Gull	Gilbert Raynor (N.Y.)	46
Herring Gull	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	1057
Ring-billed Gull	W. J. Van Velzen (Mich.)	120
Laughing Gull	William Savell (N.J.)	550
Gull-billed Tern	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	8
Common Tern	Wilcox & Terry (N.Y.)	7860
Arctic Tern	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	419
Roseate Tern	Wilcox & Terry (N.Y.)	102

Least Tern	Jerry Pace (Florida)	116
Sandwich (Cabot's) Tern	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	202
Royal Tern	" " " "	33
Black Skimmer	Wilcox & Terry	196
Black Guillemot	Charles Huntington (Maine)	19
Mourning Dove	Washington Crossing Banding Station (Pa.)	303
Ground Dove	W. J. Van Velzen (Texas)	6
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	5
	Mrs. H. M. Church (Maryland & Virginia)	5
Black-billed Cuckoo	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	14
Screech Owl	Stuart Henderson (Mass.)	4
	Nat Halverson (Tenn.)	4
Great Horned Owl	Stuart Henderson (Mass.)	2
Long-eared Owl	Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Benedict (Pa.)	3
Saw-whet Owl	James Richardson (N.J.)	5
Chimney Swift	Nat Halverson (Tenn.)	275
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	48
Belted Kingfisher	Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Benedict (Pa.)	21
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Wilcox & Terry (N.Y.)	177
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Mrs. H. M. Church (Va.)	12
Red-headed Woodpecker	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Walter Eigger (Pa.)	31
Hairy Woodpecker	Mrs. James Downs (Vermont)	24
Downy Woodpecker	James Richardson (N.J.)	79
Great Crested Flycatcher	Mabel Warburton (N.J. & Pa.)	9
Phoebe	Walter Bigger (N.J. & Pa.)	388
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	32
Traill's Flycatcher	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	22
Least Flycatcher	" " " "	135
Wood Pewee	Mrs. H. M. Church (Va. & Md.)	40
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	5
Tree Swallow	Charles Huntington (Maine)	240
Bank Swallow	Malcolm Lerch (N.Y.)	551
Rough-winged Swallow	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	16
Barn Swallow	Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Benedict (Pa.)	434
Blue Jay	Mrs. Carol Logan (Vermont & Mass.)	393
Black-capped Chickadee	Joseph A. Grom (Pa.)	172
Carolina Chickadee	Lillian Cardinali (N.J.)	56
Tufted Titmouse	Joseph A. Grom (Pa.)	64
White-breasted Nuthatch	" " " "	29
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Mrs. Robert Patterson (Maine)	44
Brown Creeper	James Richardson (N.J.)	411
House Wren	Mrs. Carol Logan (Mass.)	92
Bewick's Wren	Nat Halverson (Tenn.)	3
Winter Wren	Mary Jane Walcott (Mich.)	32
Carolina Wren	Nat Halverson (Tenn.)	41
Long-billed Marsh Wren	James Richardson (N.J.)	7

Mrs. Joseph Cardinali, RFD 2, Box 460, Jamesburg, N.J.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF AGE AND SEX REPORTING
A Letter to the Banding Office
By Robert L. Pyle

Mr. Allen J. Duvall
Bird Banding Laboratory
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Laurel, Maryland

Dear Mr. Duvall:

While working on schedules for the past year's bandings, I have once again been wrestling with the perennial problem of how to report the age and sex of many of my newly banded birds. Sometimes it is not clear what designations should be entered on the schedule to convey what I, as an untrained amateur, have determined about the individual bird, yet not mislead the future user of my records as to the extent of the scientific basis for my determinations. The present reportable categories of Age and Sex as defined in the current Bird Banding Manual are not fully explicit.

For Age, the main problem is in deciding between ADULT and UNKNOWN. The Manual states that for "some species" both subadults and true adults "should be called adults after their first January 1". It is therefore common practice for amateurs to designate virtually all birds banded from January through early spring as adults. This designation says only that the bird is at least a few months old, which adds nothing to the information given by the date of banding. But a trained zoologist in the same situation may determine from skull conditions, feather wear, or other subtle criteria that his bird was not hatched in the most recent nesting season, and therefore is at least one and a fraction years old and perhaps older. He must use the same "A" designation and, unless special remarks are given, his added information is lost to the future user of the data.

The Manual goes on to point out that subadult towhees can be distinguished from adults on the basis of feather wear and eye color, implying that towhees banded after January 1 should be designated Age Unknown unless this distinction is made. Other species must also have such criteria for separating adults from subadults in late winter. For these species, banders who indiscriminately report "A" after January 1 are actually spoiling the data files for users who would like to distinguish between subadults and true adults whenever the original bander has been able to do so.

The Age classifications ought to be so defined that the amateur and professional banders each can report as much information as he has determined. They should clearly indicate to the data user whether age was

directly and positively determined from the bird, or whether it was derived indirectly from date of banding alone.

In designating Sex, a problem arises in autumn when individuals of some species are definitely not adult male, but could be adult female or immature. The possibility of their being either adult female or immature male now requires that we designate both age and sex as unknown. In order not to lose information actually known about such a bird, we need another sex category for "female or immature, but not adult male".

With these considerations in mind, I would like to propose the following modifications to the present definitions of age and sex used for newly banded birds and for return reports:

AGE

- A = Adult: Birds determined not to have hatched in same calendar year as banded. Hatched in preceding year, or earlier.
- U = Unknown: could be A or I, but not L or N.
- .. = Unknown: could be A, I, L or N (for cases where age data is lost or not recorded)

It is expected that for many banders these categories plus the present N(nestling), L(local) and I(immature) would suffice for most species. But when date of banding can be supplemented with morphological criteria to determine age more accurately than indicated by "A", the following additional categories would be available:

- S = Subadult: birds determined to have hatched in the year preceding the calendar year of banding. Also, may be used for birds possibly hatched two, three or more years back, but which have not yet reached full adult plumage. Additional notation could be given if it can be determined fairly definitely that the bird is in its 2nd year, 3rd year, etc.
- E = Elder: birds in full adult plumage determined to have hatched in second year prior to calendar year of banding, or earlier.

When S or E is reported, the criteria used should be indicated in Remarks.

For birds hatching in late fall or winter before January 1, the following definitions would be more appropriate:

- I = Immature: determined to be less than one year old.