

O. R. CORNER

Edited by: Robert P. Yunick

Tis the season of SNO and SO - skull not ossified and skull ossified, that is. With migration in high gear, I hope all stations are fully processing as many birds as possible. In addition, each station leader should be making regular contributions of data to Audubon Field Notes and his or her local or state records chairman or editor. The qualitative and quantitative aspects of an Operation Recovery list are extremely valuable to a field note editor. And by all means, don't forget to participate in the age character study which is under way. Pick two or three species and start some detailed record keeping.

1967 Station Summaries - In the next issue I should like to publish a list of those stations which will publish their own summaries or reports. In this way, interested persons could obtain copies. If you have such a summary available, drop me a card giving details on when available, from whom and whether there is any cost or postage involved. In the past I have seen summaries from Block Island, Tobay, Vischer Ferry, Island Beach and Ocean City.

A Recovery Extraordinaire - Each bander, I imagine, has certain pet feelings about banding. One of mine concerns the possibility of recovering at one location a bird which I banded at another distant location. For instance, when I moved from West Virginia in 1963, I frequently thought about what a coincidence it would be to recover in Schenectady a bird banded in South Charleston. I didn't lose any sleep over it, to be sure, but nevertheless it was an entertaining thought and one whose remoteness, if nothing else, intrigued me. While I haven't yet made a recovery of one of the birds I banded in West Virginia, I have had two experiences which show that such a feat is not totally impossible.

A Purple Finch that I banded on October 10, 1965 at Vischer Ferry Operation Recovery near Schenectady was retrapped the following February 7th by Connie Katholi within two miles of where I used to live in South Charleston - quite a remarkable coincidence, especially since Connie and I had banded birds together several times in South Charleston and at the McClintic Wildlife Refuge. And if a Purple Finch going from the Schenectady area to South Charleston was not enough, I later learned that the first Purple Finch I ever banded, on February 17, 1963 in South Charleston was retrapped on May 7, 1966 by Carol Logan in Cranby, Mass., about 80 mi. from Schenectady. Carol, too, is a banding acquaintance from Island Beach, New Jersey.

With each year the possibility of a West Virginia recovery has grown

infinitely slimmer, but since 1964 when I began banding at Island Beach, the thought of a personal, foreign recovery has continued to glow in my mind. Perhaps the thought of such an event never happening is what has kept me thinking about it. The supposed impossible is always a fertile area for thought.

At Vischer Ferry O.R. the Song Sparrow is a very common bird, and one out of every four birds banded in 1966 was a Song Sparrow. There are many repeat captures among the Song Sparrows which are breeders, migrants and residents in the area. On August 19, 1967 I handled 73-32027 as a repeat or return. The number was close enough to the 73-32300's I was using that day to cause no great excitement. The bird was aged AHY, and was weighed and measured, but was accidentally released before being sexed.

At home later that day, while engaged in the semi-enjoyable pastime of record keeping, came the shock. The records said that 73-32027 had been banded on October 29, 1966 at Island Beach! I couldn't believe it. I spent more than a few anxious moments hunting through the records back to the original, trying to explain the whole thing as a mistake. However, a mistake it was not, for everything was in order. I also knew that I had not misread the number on the band, because I recalled having carefully examined it twice.

VFOR is almost directly north of IBOR by 210 air-miles. The coordinates are 424-0735 and 395-0740, respectively.

The seemingly impossible has happened. Now all I have to do is catch a VFOR bird at IBOR, and as food for further speculation, what are the odds of 73-32027 returning to IBOR?

On the following page, Chan Robbins' "1966 O.R. Progress Report No. 3" of November 16, 1966 is reproduced, covering the summaries of the eastern Operation Recovery stations for 1966. (For reasons of space, some columns - net hours, numbers of commonest species, and "best day" have been omitted. - Ed.)

1966 OPERATION RECOVERY STATION SUMMARY

Leader	Location	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Commonest Species
Stephen W. Simon	South China, Me.	85			Bk.&Wh. Warbler
J.M. Cadbury	Medomak, Maine	90	31		Ovenbird
Mrs. J.R. Downs	S.Londonderry, Vt.	356	270	288	Wh.-th. Sparrow
James Baird	Monomoy, Mass.	296	591		Yellowthroat
Mrs. E. Andrews	Nantucket, Mass.	59	402	1472	Myrtle Warbler
Mrs. Roy Larsen	Siasconset, Mass.		61	214	Sapsucker
Douglas Kraus	Kingston, R.I.	202	197	334	Catbird
Mrs.S.Dickerson	Block I., R.I.		722		
R.P. Yunick	Vischer Ferry, NY	228	495	550	Song Sparrow
G.S. Raynor	Manorville, N.Y.	7	123	235	Wh.-th. Sparrow
Walter Terry	Brookhaven, N.Y.	1391	1066	2805	Swamp Sparrow
F.Schaeffer, T. Davis:	Tobay, N.Y.	507	922	2986	Myrtle Warbler
Richard Cohen	Atlantic Beach NY	353	306	1032	Wh.-th. Sparrow
Richard Rosche	Sandy Hook, N.J.		179		Redstart
W.E. Savell	Linwood, N.J.	83	208	118	Catbird
J.C. Schmid	Mariedor Sanc., NJ		370	149	Catbird
Mrs. M.Warburton	Island Beach, N.J.	359	8693	16504	Wh.-th. Sparrow
G. Hitchner	Cape May Pt., N.J.		1223		Redstart
J.M. Cadbury	Elverson, Pa.		144	174	Catbird
John Miller	Tinicum, Phila, Pa.	5	55	298	Myrtle Warbler
Jack Linehan	Newark, Del.	65	158	315	Wh.-th. Sparrow
Edward Rykiel	Rock Run Sanc., Md.	41	170	81	Swainson's Thrush
Stephen W. Simon	Monckton, Md.		143	539	Swainson's Thrush
A.J. Fletcher	Denton, Md.	51	63		Cardinal
Mrs. E. Mendinhall:	Chestertown, Md.		899	2568	Myrtle Warbler
D.Bridge, J.Chursh:	Kent Point, Md.	231	2667	1483	Myrtle Warbler
Thompson & Ireland:	Pt. Lookout, Md.			908	Catbird
Mrs. R.D. Cole	Ocean City, Md.	58	2824	8552	Myrtle Warbler
Charles Hacker	Kiptopeke Beach, Va.		2238	2999	Swainson's Thrush
P.W. Sykes, Jr.	Bodie I., N.C.		55	575	Myrtle Warbler
G.A. Hall, R.K. Bell:	Allegheny Front W.Va.	2205		784	Swainson's Thrush

