

YELLOWTHROAT FOREIGN RECOVERY

By Dr. C. Brooke Worth

Owing to self-confessed inevitable delays in the F & W people notifying us of what goes on, I hasten to report to EBBA News readers that on October 3, 1967, I netted what must be somebody's recent and highly esteemed Operation Recovery Yellowthroat. This bird, No. 116-12467, female of indeterminate age (since I did not examine the skull), brazenly stuck out its right leg at me, thereby apprising me at a distance of its previous knack for discovering nets and falling into human hands, for the anklet on that member immediately announced itself as foreign to my environs, inasmuch as I always band birds on the left leg. If the Yellowthroat had indeed participated in someone's Operation Recovery along the coast, its experience had not disoriented it in any way, for it was now on the proper course, having crossed the New Jersey peninsula to the Bay Shore, and thus following the most direct route toward more southern coastlines.

Since undertaking banding on my farm in Cape May County (N.J.) two years ago, I have handled somewhat under 1,100 birds. Of these, three have been foreign recoveries, a rate of almost one-third of one per cent, which strikes me as being very high. The other two were Cowbirds, from Alabama and Louisiana, respectively.

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FOREIGN RECOVERY INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Inspired by Dr. Worth's note, above, and by the Banding Office's MTAB #9 of Sept. 20, 1967, explaining delays in processing banding data, we propose to print a regular column in EBBA News to assist banders who trap "foreign recoveries", and the original banders, to exchange information - at least until the Banding Office is able to catch up with the backlog mentioned in MTAB #9.

All banders who catch "foreign"-banded birds are requested to send the Editor a card giving band number, species, where trapped, and date - and any other pertinent information. We will print simply the band number and species - in order to add the incentive of curiosity to that of cooperation, so that the person who banded the bird will write us giving banding details. These will be printed in the next issue following receipt of the information. As long as time and pressure of correspondence permit, we will also send postcards to both bander and retrapper with the desired information so they do not have to wait until the next issue of EBBA News appears.