

## SOME AGE RECORDS AND RECOVERIES FROM NORRISTOWN, PA.

By Raymond J. Middleton

(Mr. Middleton has furnished a wealth of data from his 48 years of continuous banding at Norristown, Pa. - as far as we know, his is the oldest banding station in the country in continuous operation at one place. Recovery and return data are given below, by species, in abbreviated form to save space: band number, date banded (and place if not at Norristown); "Ret." if a return, with return data; and for recoveries, an abbreviation showing how recovered followed by data and place of recovery. These abbreviations are:

TR	Trapped & released	K	"Killed"
FD	Found dead	KC	Killed by car
S	Shot	Cat	- caught by cat

The format will be altered in some cases, to summarize; and Mr. Middleton's commentary on interesting records is included. -Ed.)

Double-crested Cormorant

498-47567 b. 7-19-50 at Muscongus Bay, Maine as nestling; TR 12-26-50 at Steinhatchee, Florida (west coast).

Mallard

50-745737 b. 7-12-50 (Imm.) by N.Y. Conservation Dept. at Conevango Valley, N.Y.; TR 6-9-54 at Norristown.

Cooper's Hawk

B-116884 b. 6-1-39 (nestl.) at Demarest, N.J. by Beecher Bowdish; Shot 9-18-39 near Norristown.

Sparrow Hawk (nestlings)

443938 b. 6-11-32; S 9-3-32 Augusta, Georgia.  
 443939 b. 6-11-32; S 10-24-32 Nash County, North Carolina.  
 A458719 b. 6-12-33; K 1-1-34 Georgetown, South Carolina.  
 36-403690 b. 6-19-41; S 10-3-41 Clayton, North Carolina

Ring-billed Gull

505-42788 b. 6-26-61 (imm.) by John Buckalew at Little Galoo Island, N.Y.; FD 3-30-63 at Norristown.

Flicker

45-315426 b. 7-2-47; S 11-11-47 Dalzell, South Carolina.  
 A443953 b. 6-17-32 (n.); "caught" 10-20-32 Johns, North Carolina.

Crested Flycatcher

A147214 b. 1929 (Ad.) Ret: 1936, thus at least 8 years of age.  
 40-110658 b. 1940 (Ad.) Ret: 1945, at least 7 years. For complete data on these birds see Bird Banding 20(3), July 1949.

Bluejay

543-54682 b. 4-27-57 (Ad.) KC 6-30-57 Mt. Katahdin, Baxter State Park, Me.  
 563-40657 b. 11-12-60; KC 8-11-67 Marion, Mass.  
 713-02012 b. 5-4-62 (Ad.) Cat 5-15-66 Caroline, Rhode Island.  
 643-42490 b. 10-5-61; K 5-31-64 Cranston, Rhode Island.  
 563-40691 b. 6-15-61 (imm.) FD 11-16-65 West Point, Virginia.  
 503-83885 b. 7-9-55 (imm.) K 3-26-57 Lumberton, North Carolina.  
 543-54924 b. 5-15-58 (Ad.) FD 8-8-59 Columbia, South Carolina.  
 693-70813 b. 9-16-62 at Valley Forge, Pa. by Emil Berger (5 miles from Norristown) TR at Norristown 8-28-64 and again 6-1-65.  
 40-362859 b. 10-7-40; S 12-9-46 Southbridge, Mass.  
 41-356682 b. 9-29-42; FD 2-1-48 Metuchen, N.J.  
 37-342498 b. 5-10-46; TR 12 days later at New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y.  
 A432612 b. 10-1-31; FD 1-3-34 Waverly, Virginia.

813-31152 b. 7-24-57 (imm.) Ret: 6-3-69 for the 8th time. Not taken in 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1968 but present in the area (color banded) and still seen at feeders over a month after last capture. This is my oldest bird, 12 years, in the more than 48 years this station has been in operation.

813-31157 b. 7-10-60 (imm.) Ret: 6-17-68 (5th time) - 8 years of age.  
 983-40740 b. 5-27-62 (Ad.) Ret: 6-2-67 - at least 6 years.  
 983-40760 b. 5-5-63 (Ad.) Ret: 5-31-67 (4th time) - at least 5 years.  
 563-40615 b. 8-28-59 (Ad.) Ret: 7-11-67 (2nd time) - at least 9 years.  
 713-02048 b. 5-7-62 (Ad.) Ret: 6-2-68 (2nd time) - at least 7 years.

Tufted Titmouse

No. 39-126650 banded as adult 1-27-39 nested every year including 1945 when it was mated to No. 42-137944 (b. ad. 7-4-43) and they raised 12 young in two broods. This pair had been mated also during 1943 and 1944. No. 42-137944 continued nesting until and including 1950. Thus one lived at least eight years and the other at least seven.

Brown Thrasher

563-40861 b. 9-26-59; FD 7-5-64 Jericho, Vermont.  
 543-54686 b. 4-29-57; FD 6-15-61 South Hadley, Mass.

A322167 b. 8-27-29 (Ad.) Ret: 6-1-35 (3rd time) - at least 7 years old.

Catbird

512-35205 b. 7-12-56; FD 2-13-63 Nashville, Tennessee.  
 47-209742 b. 7-16-48 (imm.) Ret: 5-8-56 (6th time)  
 42-214598 b. 6-19-43 (Ad.) Ret: 5-27-49 (6th time)  
 38-237701 b. 6-23-38 (Ad.) Ret: 8-19-43 (5th time)

Robin

722-06735 b. 6-9-68 (imm.) FD 1-1-69 Pensacola, Florida.  
 37-315662 b. 7-4-38 (imm.) FD 8-21-46 Glenside, Pa. (15 mi. from Norristown)  
 39-368745 b. 8-15-39 (Ad.) Ret: 5-4-47 (returned each year) - now at least  
 nine years old and partial albino, about half white.

Other Robins found dead in southern states, as follows:

Florida 12	Alabama 5	South Carolina 5
Georgia 8	Louisiana 2	North Carolina 4
Miss. 4	(see <u>Bird Banding</u> 31:3, July, 1960)	

Wood Thrush

36-155117 b. 7-30-37 (Ad.) Ret: 7-26-41 (4th time)  
 34-198592 b. 5-17-35 (Ad.) Ret: 5-8-39 (3rd time)

Hermit Thrush

36-155372 b. 10-30-47; "Caught" 1-31-50 Eure, North Carolina.

Myrtle Warbler

20-36533 b. 3-22-51; Ret: 10-8-52  
 47-72461 b. 11-14-48; Shot (!) 12-8-49 Scotland Neck, N.C.

Northern Waterthrush

38-10782 b. 5-8-38 (Ad.) "Found sick" 3-8-40 Orangeburg, S.C. - this did not seem unusual to me until I read a few years ago of a Northern Waterthrush banded in a northern state and recovered in South America; a comment followed saying this was only the second recovery ever, of this species. If this is so, then for nearly 25 years I had the only one taken.

Scarlet Tanager

40-158464 b. 9-8-48 (Ad.M.) FD 8-8-56 Lake Hiawatha, N.J. - at least 9 yrs.  
 621-57944 b. 10-17-66; TR 5-17-67 Williamsburg, Virginia.

Starling

963-19676 b. 11-7-61 (imm.) Ret: 6-4-67  
 A200521 b. 11-20-28 (Ad.) K 12-12-30 Palatka, Florida.  
 42-304955 b. 7-8-43 (imm.) FD 3-11-44 Bridgewater, Virginia.  
 41-357940 b. 7-9-44 (imm.) TR 4-22-50 Philadelphia, Pa.

Baltimore Oriole

36-147713 b. 7-7-36 (imm.) Ret: 6-30-41  
 36-147754 b. 8-1-36 (imm.) Ret: 6-12-39 (Found dead 6 mi. from Norristown).

Cowbird

651-29428 b. 12-11-63 at E. Vickery, Ohio by Dr. Maurice Giltz; TR at Norristown 3-2-64.  
 B170389 b. 4-17-32 (Ad.) S 11-28-32 near Tampa, Florida - reported by Beecher Bowdish who read of it in a Tampa newspaper!

Common Grackle

To summarize: 30 returns are listed, of which 16 are birds banded in 1960-62 and shot in May and June 1967 about one mile from Norristown.

713-02442 b. 3-29-65 (Ad.) FD 4-18-65 Chesterfield, New Hampshire - the only recovery north of Norristown. The others:

Del. 4; Md. 3; Va. 7; N.C. 1.

Cardinal

34-204367 b. 2-11-35 (Ad.F.) Ret: 6-14-42 (3rd time)  
 B231630 b. 6-16-33 (Ad.M.) Ret: 3-13-39 (3rd time)  
 512-35431 b. 6-17-57 (imm.M.) Ret: 8-20-64 (found dead near here)

Goldfinch

102-96128 b. 3-1-64 (Ad.) TR 2-7-66 Greenville, North Carolina.

Evening Grosbeak

59-140527 b. 12-14-61 at State College, Pa. by Dorothy Bordner; TR here 45 days later

Purple Finch

63-98476 b. 3-28-60; FD 20 days later at Ware, Mass.  
 57-80773 b. 2-26-60; TR 5-2-60 & 4-21-61 Fairfield, Conn. by Mrs. Roy Larsen.

House Finch

- 67-23775 b. 2-2-64; TR 1-1-65 Ridgewood, N.J. by Mrs. Eleanor McEntee.  
 65-58733 b. 4-13-64 at Ridgewood by Mrs. McEntee; TR here 11-5-65.  
 63-98752 b. 11-23-61; TR 6-14-62 Riverside, Conn. by Mrs. Hope Geis.  
 71-48968 b. 1-6-65; TR 3-30-65 Brooklyn, N.Y. by E.J. Selleck.  
 68-50767 b. 3-29-64 at Mamaroneck, N.Y. by Gilbert Cant; TR here 12-3-66.  
 71-49026 b. 11-25-65; TR 3-25-66 at Ridgewood, N.J. by Mrs. McEntee.  
 65-58739 b. 4-15-64 at Ridgewood by Mrs. McEntee; TR here 11-22-66.

Rufous-sided Towhee

- 64-37269 b. 10-6-66; Cat 23 days later, Summerville, S.C.

Slate-colored Junco

- 49-95795 b. 10-10-50; FD 12-25-51 Sylacauga, Alabama.  
 A122929 b. 4-3-29; TR 5 days later Mahwah, N.J. by H.O. Havemeyer.  
 34-99837 b. 11-11-37 at Belchertown, Mass.; TR here 3-15-38.

Of the many winter returns, we had one which lived to nine years of age, being present in seven of them; also an 8-year-old bird present for six winters; four birds to seven years and three to six years.

Tree Sparrow

We have had the following returns; for complete details see Bird Banding 23:1, January 1952:

2	individuals present for 8 winters
6	" " 7 "
4	" " 6 "
7	" " 5 "

White-throated Sparrow

- 54-174480 b. 5-5-58; FD 6 days later, Kittery, Maine.  
 34-158883 b. 5-2-35; TR 5-8-38 St. Paul's Island, Nova Scotia.  
 B119247 b. 10-4-30; TR 4-26-37 S. Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Mrs. Fred Hook)  
 47-119785 b. 9-28-48 at Quebec Zoological Gardens; TR here 3-4-52.  
 33-100999 b. 10-17-62 at Kingston, R.I. by G.C. West; TR here 11-19-62.  
 30-142394 b. 12-2-61 at Doylestown, Pa. by Fred Mears; TR here 10-17-65.

We also had two trapped in New Hampshire, three found dead in North Carolina, six found dead in South Carolina. Returns: among numerous winter returns, the following is unusual:

- 41-14885 b. 10-12-41; Ret: 1-12-47 for the 5th time.

Song Sparrow

- 31-171191 b. 3-6-63 (Ad.) at Allendale, N.J. by Roy Dietert; TR here at Norristown 3-13-64.  
 41-124585 b. 7-5-41; FD 4-5-42 Baltimore, Md.  
 35-126206 b. 10-8-35; K 11-2-35 Pittsville, Md.  
 20-127134 b. 7-29-50; K 11-26-50 Grimesland, N.C.  
 174445 b. 9-19-27; FD 3-7-28 Hazelhurst, Georgia.  
 36-147875 b. 10-23-36; K 2-23-37 Stevens Pottery, Georgia.

Returns: we have had four that lived to be six years old and five, to five years.

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Our total of birds caught during the 48 years of operation is as follows:

Banded	57,223
Repeats	52,931
Returns	2,159
Foreign retraps	<u>122</u>

Total captures 112,435

We also have had 384 of our birds found in 20 states and two Canadian provinces. Total species banded is 155.

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