

and reproduction. A second section (pp. 25-42) treats galliform and columbiform species in a similar manner. Of particular note is the discussion of the utilization of cellulose by means of symbiotic micro-organisms. This discussion is a compilation of information from a number of sources. Unfortunately, here as elsewhere in the volume, specific bibliographic references are lacking. The bulk of the volume (pp. 46-146) consists of discussions of the 21 species of the above-cited groups which occur, or have occurred, in Belgium. For each there are sections on synonymy, description, distribution (general and in Belgium), migration and other movements, habitat, food habits, nesting, eggs, incubation, and young and their development.—D. S. Farner.

NOTES AND NEWS

In the course of a very pleasant field meeting of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association (at the banding station of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Niels, Jr., Hardwick, Mass.), an informal discussion took place on color standards available to banders, with which to record details of plumage and the soft parts of birds. It seemed that the ideal standard would be: (1) compact enough to be carried in the field; (2) reduced to a reasonably small number of colors to avoid the need of a great many sub-divisions in studying, for example, plumage changes in Purple Finches; (3) tied in to the great mass of existing data based on Ridgway's standards; (4) and yet more objective and simpler in application; (5) while remaining moderate in price. It seemed possible that such a standard would be useful in other branches of natural history, although the range of colors needed would vary with the branch to some extent. Mr. C. H. Blake, President of the N.E.B.B.A., appointed a special committee to look into the subject: Mr. B. M. Shaub (Chairman), Mr. Parker Reed and Mr. E. A. Bergstrom. The committee would welcome any comments or suggestions, to be sent to Mr. Shaub at 159 Elm St., Northampton, Mass.

During the same field meeting, a question was raised by Mr. E. A. Bergstrom as to whether it would not be profitable to experiment with trapping methods for use under the following specialized situations: (1) spring or fall landbird migrants on barren islands or peninsulas, to get more information on whether water-drip traps would not prove effective, and if not, whether any other type of automatic trap could be used. Most of the banding done under such circumstances seems to have been done in Europe, relying heavily on driving birds into the big Heligoland traps; (2) methods other than nets to take species such as blackbirds in the vicinity of roosts where considerable numbers gather, at certain seasons; and (3) species such as marsh wrens or sharp-tailed sparrows in large marshes, as adults, without disturbing the immediate vicinity of the nests, and at a considerable distance from solid ground. From the discussion which followed, it did not appear that any great amount of work had been done on these problems, and their inherent difficulty challenges our ingenuity. The editor would welcome comments on solutions which any readers may have found.

Erratum: on page 40 of the January, 1951, issue, the second line of the review of *The Pre-egg Stage in the Albatross Family* should read in part: "Biological Monographs, No. 3."

As a service to banders, the Massachusetts Audubon Society has in stock a large assortment of traps (see circular enclosed), assembled by Mr. C. R. Mason, its executive Director. He is a bander of long experience, and a member of the Council of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association. One excellent trap was obtained too late for inclusion in the circular: the Mason trap (designed by Mr. Edwin A. Mason of Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary), which is among those discussed by Mr. Blake in his paper entitled "A Method of Comparing Traps" in this issue. It is a large (37 x 18 inches) automatic trap, at \$12.00.

Because of the greater space devoted to original papers in recent issues, the backlog of papers awaiting publication is low. We know of several being prepared with a view to publication in *Bird-Banding*, such as a summary of information on traps and baits for the Mourning Dove, being prepared by biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Nevertheless, the editor could use additional good papers on subjects of particular interest to bird banders, in early issues. Most general notes accepted for publication in recent months have appeared in the first

issue to go to the printer after their receipt; it should be borne in mind that we endeavor to send copy to the printer in the first half of the second month preceding that of publication, or in other words the July issue must be put together early in May. Any reader who shares the editor's belief that it would be desirable for each issue to provide still more space for papers and general notes can help materially by securing an additional subscriber and by using his own banding records to prepare a paper or general note for publication.