northern birds. My limited data indicate that birds raised in this part of Texas spend their lives within a restricted area. The two birds returned as two year old adults were killed in the same general area as they were banded. The dove with band No. 45503 was taken on November 9, 1952 only 3.3 miles south southwest of where it was banded over 2½ years previously on May 2, 1950. The dove with band No. 45543 was taken on October 19, 1952—8 miles southwest of where it was banded just over 2 years previously, on August 1, 1950.

The other three birds were killed the same year that they were banded. The bird bearing band No. 45517 was taken on October 23, 1950 2 miles east of where it was banded on June 19, 1950. The bird bearing band No. 45535 was taken on October 20, 1950 approximately 50 miles due south of where it was banded 2 months earlier, on July 21, 1950. The dove with band No. 45536 was taken on December 3, 1950 approximately 20 miles west of where it was banded on July 21, 1950.

Conclusions

Two young mourning doves of the year were killed at distances of 50 and 25 miles respectively from the banding area. The other young bird was taken 2 miles from the spot where it was banded. The 2 birds over 2 years old were taken within 3 and 8 miles of where they were banded.

Although the mourning dove in Texas is considered to be a highly mobile species, this limited study would indicate them to be birds that spend their life in or near the localities in which they were produced.—Olan W. Dillon, Jr., Biologist, Soil Conservation Service, Ithaca, N. Y.

Homing by a Female Cowbird.—I have previously described *(Bird-Banding,* **30:** 228) the remarkable feats of a female Brown-headed Cowbird (band number 55-187923) in returning here from distances up to 265 miles. This bird returned to my station here on April 26, 1960. I hope to find someone who will take her to a distance of at least 500 miles, and give her a chance once again to show her keen attachment to this little spot.—William P. Wharton, Groton, Mass.

Southern Recoveries of Massachusetts Robins.—Some of the Robins *(Turdus migratorius)* banded at our station in Groton and recovered elsewhere have been described in earlier issues of *Bird-Banding* (**24:** 5-6; **28:** 99; **30:** 121). On October 4, 1955, I banded an immature Robin with band 522-63715. This bird was "found dead" at Port Allen, Louisiana, in mid-December, 1959. On October 10, 1956, another immature Robin got band 532-12767. This was reported "killed" at Frisco City, Alabama, in early February, 1960. These records raise the total of my Robins reported from west of Georgia to five.—William P. Wharton, Groton, Mass.

A Bird Holding Cage.—During the course of collecting large numbers of birds (*e. g.* from mist nets or from roosts) a problem arises of freeing one's hands as rapidly as possible to be able to capture the next. A common method of holding birds has been to place them in cages or in burlap sacks. Much time is so consumed and the possibility of escape is high. A simple and effective holding cage with a rubber snap-shut door has been found to be very useful when large numbers of birds have to be handled.

The essential feature of this cage is the snap-shut door which is constructed from an automobile inner tube and serves as one side of the cage. Construction of the door is as follows: 1. Slit the tube lengthwise to produce a long strip of rubber; 2. then cut into two pieces each large enough to cover ½ of one side of the cage; 3. each piece is then tacked along three edges on one side of the cage leaving a free edge in the center (doubling over the free edge of the upper piece of rubber permits easier access). Due to the nature of the inner tube folds appear in each piece but they have not been found to cause any inconvenience. The "snap-shut door" permits placement of a bird in the cage and withdrawal of one's hand without having birds escape.

The species to be handled and the situation will determine the dimensions of the cage and the size of the wire. A cage 20″ x 28″ and 18″ deep with one inch wire mesh has been found suitable for starlings and will hold about 80 birds for two hours with negligible mortality.—John G. Vandenbergh, Department

of Zoology and Entomology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Ed. note: This sort of cage seems to be reinvented periodically; I have seen at least one similar cage before (Mrs. Bertram Wellman had one at a NEBBA meeting some ten years ago). However, it is well worth calling to the attention of other banders.

RECENT LITERATURE

MIGRATION

1. Northward fall migration on the Atlantic coast and its relation to offshore drift. James Baird and Ian C. T. Nisbet. 1960. *Auk*, **77**: 119-149. Recurrently in autumn, in coastal areas from Maine to Virginia, numbers of passerines travel to the north of west—more or less counter to the southward seasonal trend of migration. Baird and Nisbet believe that the birds have drifted seaward during the night from inland avenues of flight and are returning to their preferred routes. They suggest that the "north or northwest" movements are redirected migration, a "simple—perhaps automatic—reaction to lateral displacement." Their hypothesis seems to be that recovery flights in these directions are a more or less fixed evolutionary adaptation to combat the effects of continuing northwest winds, widely thought to be the commonest cause of fatal drift out over the western Atlantic in fall. The implication is that the birds involved are reacting primarily to displacement itself, not to the wind directions that cause displacement though the latter may somewhat modify the result. In other words, behaving according to a now inherent pattern, they tend to fly north or northwest, whether or not a wind change has meanwhile destroyed the drift-combating advantages of such back-tracking.

The idea is stimulating, but the present supporting evidence is admittedly meager and so far can be accounted for in other ways (see next review).—R. J. Newman.

2. Northeastern Maritime Region—report on the 1959 fall migration season. Aaron M. Bagg. 1960. *Audubon Field Notes*, **14**(1): 10-17. The regional reports in *Audubon Field Notes* do not ordinarily lend themselves to review. Conventionally they are in themselves synopses, compressing so many diverse data into so small a compass that no dominant theme emerges. The account under consideration is unconventional. Not only is it the longest regional report ever published in the magazine but more than half its contents focuses on a single topic—the very one considered in the paper by Baird and Nisbet just discussed.

Bagg too regards many of the fall flights in New England in directions other than southerly as measures to counter dangerous drift; but he maintains that "migratory behavior reflects a response to the combination of local topography and wind direction" and that the observed movements of migrants in coastal regions result from a conflict of two tendencies—"to move in their standard directions" and "to fly into the wind, toward the west, northwest, or north, when the winds are from those directions." Whereas Baird and Nisbet pay most heed to the birds seen passing northward or northwestward and lay emphasis on the element of similarity in the flight directions, Bagg stresses their element of variability. He cites many examples of coastal-area migration toward the south and southwest.

The gist of the difference between the two interpretations is that Bagg looks upon most of the "wrong-way" movement not as a directionally stereotyped reaction to displacement *per se* but simply as a tendency to fly *into* dangerous wind, thus a tendency that varies in direction to the extent that the direction of such wind itself varies. Which view is more nearly correct obviously hinges upon whether fall migrants proceed northward or northwestward on a broad front when the wind is not from those directions. They do, say Baird and Nisbet, but the crucial corroborative evidence is the most sketchily presented part of their paper. The definitely cited instances could all be dismissed as purely local reactions to the relations of land and sea. For instance, the alleged "northwest" departure of birds from the island of Nantucket during periods of calm is mapped more nearly as a west-northwest movement out over the isles of Tuckernuck and