

BANDING 349 CARDINALS  
by Horace Groskin

My banding station is located at Ardmore, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The Eastern Cardinal, Richmondens cardinalis cardinalis, is a permanent resident at my station throughout the year, and several pairs of these birds breed on our property, raising two to three broods each year. The earliest date at which I have observed nestlings leave the nest was on May 1, 1939. During the winter months, I have had as many as 15 to 18 Cardinals at our feeders at one time, feeding on sunflower seeds. By consulting Table I, it may be noted that I banded from 15 to 40 Cardinals each year from 1937 to 1950. My average for the 14 years is about 25 per year.

TABLE I

## CARDINALS BANDED AT ARDMORE, PENNA.

| YEAR                | NUMBER BANDED |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 5/12/37 to 12/28/37 | 21            |
| 1/17/38 to 12/15/38 | 23            |
| 1/1/39 to 11/20/39  | 32            |
| 5/26/40 to 12/31/40 | 29            |
| 1/20/41 to 11/22/41 | 19            |
| 1/11/42 to 12/6/42  | 26            |
| 1/3/43 to 12/31/43  | 24            |
| 1/8/44 to 12/23/44  | 15            |
| 1/6/45 to 9/22/45   | 40            |
| 1/27/46 to 12/14/46 | 30            |
| 1/1/47 to 12/7/47   | 15            |
| 3/20/48 to 11/21/48 | 27            |
| 2/18/49 to 11/11/49 | 31            |
| 3/12/50 to 10/7/50  | 29            |
|                     | <u>361</u>    |

## SEX RATIO

Of the 361 Cardinals banded, 21 immatures were not determined as to sex, and of the remaining 340 Cardinals, 169, or 49.7 percent, were males and 171, or 50.3 percent, were females. 70 of the 169 males were immatures while 68 of the 171 females were immatures, and 21 immatures were not determined.



## RETURNS

Twenty-eight Cardinals were retrapped at Ardmore as returns. Six birds returned about 6 months after banding; 5 returned nearly one year after banding; 7 returned one and a half years after banding; 7 birds returned two years after banding; 2 birds returned three years after banding, and one bird returned four years after banding.

## LONGEVITY

The evidence that the Eastern Cardinal is actually a permanent resident is found in the banding records of recoveries reported to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Eleven Cardinals banded at Ardmore were reported to me by the Fish and Wildlife Service as having been found dead. Three of these birds were found dead at one to two miles from Ardmore and eight others were found dead in Ardmore. The detailed records of these eleven Cardinals found dead are as follows:

An adult male banded in Ardmore, Pa., 1/1/39; found dead 11/15/39 at Wynnewood, Pa., about one mile from Ardmore.

Immature female banded in Ardmore, Pa., 9/11/37; found dead 4 years and 4 months later, 2/15/42, at Merion, Pa., two miles from Ardmore.

Immature female banded in Ardmore 9/22/45; found dead 1/29/47 at Wynnewood, Pa. about one mile from Ardmore.

Adult female banded in Ardmore 12/15/38; found dead 7/19/39 in Ardmore.

Immature female banded in Ardmore 7/30/40; found dead July, 1941, in Ardmore.

Immature male banded in Ardmore 8/3/41; found dead 8/30/41 in Ardmore.

Immature female banded in Ardmore 8/7/41; found dead about 1 year and 5 months later, 1/1/43, in Ardmore.

Adult female banded in Ardmore 12/31/43; found dead about one year later, 2/18/45, in Ardmore.

Immature male banded in Ardmore 7/4/45; found dead about two and a half years later, 2/29/48, in Ardmore.

Immature male banded in Ardmore 8/7/41; found dead three and a half years later, 3/14/45, in Ardmore, Pa., about one block from where it was originally banded.

Adult male banded in Ardmore 10/26/40; found dead over 4 years later, on 12/6/44, in Ardmore, about one block from where he was banded.

