

BANDING TECHNIQUES

Mr. Street's letter in the last issue prompts the observation that very, very little material on baits or trapping techniques has been submitted to the News. Ideally, perhaps, the News should consist of about one-third banding technique, one-third station reports, and one-third news of banders. Material on the last two items has come in pretty well recently. How about more on the first? We could use some more drawings of traps, for example.

AGE DETERMINATION

The following note is contributed by Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa.: "Some birds normally have white areas in their flight feathers, wings or tail, the development of which may increase with age. In the Slate-colored Junco adult growth is indicated by the third outer tail feathers being at least one-third white. I recently trapped four Myrtle Warblers in one of which there was no white in the third outer rectrix, while the other three had white areas in all three of the outer feathers. Does that indicate that the one bird was in juvenal plumage? Whoever bands nestlings, or fledglings recently out of the nest, may keep account of the shape and size of any white patches in the wing or tail feathers, for comparison with trap returns of the same birds. By such a study I determined that the white patches in the tails of Robins do not enlarge or change in shape from the fledgling to the adult. Dr. G. Hapgood Parks has shown by such methods that in Juncos sexual maturity at one year and much before the adult plumage. Banders should make and report their observations even if only a few birds are involved. Schizochromatic white feathers are not necessarily unilateral, but are then easier to detect."

CHANGES IN ADDRESS

Mrs. Marion L. Handley from P. O. Box #43, Granville, Ohio
to 831 Miller St., Morgantown, W. Va.

HELP!

EBBA News is still in need of good material. Station reports similar to those published in the last few issues are of interest to many members. Species reports like the one on the Cardinal in this issue are fine. We need trap drawings - station lay-out suggestions and information on baits. Our next symposium on the Junco (all varieties) is scheduled for the February issue. Now is the time to begin compiling your data for this feature.