

They claim no other species have been found dead - only brown thrashers. I would have mailed this particular bird somewhere for an autopsy but off-hand didn't know where to send it and, furthermore, it had been dead some 24 hours and was already covered in 2 spots with fly eggs. She has promised to be on the lookout for any more dead birds and will bring them over immediately.

"Spray poisoning seems to be ruled out if she is correct in saying they are all brown thrashers. They live rather close to the Pequannock River and should have quite a number of nesting species in that section. Wondered if any other bander has had a similar experience."

All of which points up the value of the pathological studies which were being undertaken some years ago by EBBA members and cooperating pathologists. A recent note in the News asking if anyone knew of competent pathologists willing to examine injured or dead specimens along the line of the earlier study has not brought any response.

Your Editor suggests that any member having experience with the foot disease referred to by Bergstrom summarize his findings for presentation in the News.

AGE DETERMINATION

Several recent notes on the determination of sex, age, and identification of captured birds brought the following note from Mr. Charles H. Blake:

"The suggestion in the June 1950 Ebba News (p.5) that banders accumulate data useful in telling the age of trapped birds is excellent. I have quite a little which is not yet ready for publication, but can make a few suggestions on items to look at. Colors of the soft parts: iris, bare margin of eyelids, skin at angle of the mouth, mouth lining, are particularly important. Notice the shape of the tips of the tail feathers, rather pointed in the young of thrushes and some other passerines. A curious point is the delay in growing most of the underwing coverts, leaving a bare area from axilla to wrist between the reversed coverts and Lowe's pteryla patagii corridori. Question: to what age does each of these characters hold good?"

Mr. Blake has been asked to expand on several of these points for a future issue. A good study project for banders is also suggested for those able to raise young birds.