

idea of the type of information which is needed. For the benefit of newer members, we shall summarize the types of data wanted:

- 1) Recoveries, giving exact locations of banding and recovery, exact dates, and any other data available.
- 2) Returns and repeats at banding station.
- 3) Weights and measurements, and age and sex determination data.
- 4) Infestation with parasites; illnesses and other defects.
- 5) Types of traps used; bait preferred; locations of traps; behavior at traps.

In other words, practically anything pertaining to this species should be worked up and sent in. The more complete the information received, the better will be the resulting summary. Remember this is a cooperative project, the success of which depends on each bander!

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Material for use in EBBA NEWS has been coming in a little more rapidly of late, and it is expected that with the October issue we shall be able to add another sheet of four pages to each issue. However, the continuance of this policy will depend on your regular contributions. It is likely that the innermost sheet will be done by a process other than straight mimeographing so that it will permit the reproduction of trap plans to illustrate the series on traps which we promised in the August number.

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WHAT IS THE SMALLEST RELATIVE SIZE OF AN INFERTILE EGG?

by Harold B. Wood, M.D.

On a banding expedition with James Stanley Quickmire of the South Jersey Audubon Center near Cape May Court House, New Jersey, I was taken by canoe to the sand flats below Stone Harbor. These tidewater flats are as extensive as the mudflats below Beach Haven, New Jersey, but at the time they had a different avian population. Over the minute sand dunes about a hundred Black Skimmers hovered noisily while we banded several nestlings.

In the same locality, many Common Terns had scooped out concavities for their nests. One nest was found to contain what should be represented by one and one tenth eggs! One of the eggs was of normal coloration and size, measuring 1.75 by 1.25 inches. The other egg was without doubt an infertile dud; it was spherical in shape, with no suggestion of any pointing, and about one third of an inch in diameter. Its ground color was normal, and the brownish blotches were of the same color as the normal egg but somewhat smaller in size.

Is this the record for the smallest relative size for a 'dud' bird egg? ---3016 North Second St., Harrisburg, Penna.

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BIRD BANDING PROBLEMS IN INDIA

by C. Brooke Worth, M.D.

(Those American banders who think that English Sparrows or Pigeons make banding almost impossible should be thankful that they do not have to contend with the problems faced by Brooke Worth, former President of E.B.B.A. who is now with the Rockefeller Foundation, stationed in India.--AEC)

Not much bird banding has been done in India because of the difficulty in maintaining trapping stations. I have not even attempted to establish a bird feeder at my home in Bangalore because of the following problems.

If American bird banders think English Sparrows are a nuisance, they should see the crows in this country. There are two species: the larger Jungle Crow that is a solid glistening black; and the smaller House Crow, duller black with a grey mantle. Both crows are common in almost every city, usually existing in enormous numbers and boldly marauding everywhere. In some places you cannot sit in the garden for afternoon tea because the crows and kites dive down and snatch food from the table or even out of your hand. They enter kitchens to steal any exposed eatables that are left about. One day a crow ate the eggs in my pigeon coop.

The common Pariah Kite is also a ubiquitous marauder. Imagine, then, setting out food to attract smaller birds. The food, whatever