

How many Juncos or White-throated Sparrows stay only one or two weeks? How many of the ones that are not repeating show up after a heavy snow? Most of these problems you make up for yourself, your filing system can answer almost immediately. Sooner or later you may find that you have substantial evidence to support the belief that a certain species acts in a certain manner. A trip to Patuxent for corroborative information may provide you with the subject matter for a really important paper. Thus your banding has become more than a fox chase after birds. You have done what you began banding to do -- you have learned something new about the life and movements of wild bird populations.

Naturally you won't let a few records mislead you. But your own records are just as reliable as any others. What's more important, your records are records of still living birds that will compile even additional records. For example: at Washington Crossing a series of 31 Red-eyed Vireo adults were banded in 1954. Of these 60% have returned since in at least one other year. Five of those 31 birds returned in 1957! In less than half a minute it is possible to dig the whole vireo story out of the record files!

Alex Bergstrom, editor of Bird Banding, said over and over again during the informal banding meeting held during the AOU Convention in Cape May this September, that there is a real shortage of banding articles. Actually very little is definitely known about the lives and the movements of wild bird populations, altho almost every bander who keeps accurate Repeat records is in a position to turn up a new fact or so every so often.

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'THE RING' APPOINTS  
JOHN DENNIS CO-EDITOR

John V. Dennis, 17 Liberty St., Nantucket, Mass., has accepted the appointment as regional co-editor of THE RING, quarterly international journal of bird banding. As co-editor, John Dennis' duties will include taking care of a regular supply of news and information from our area, gaining new subscribers to THE RING, and serving on the journal's advisory board. All EBBA members are urged to feed John Dennis news and items suitable for this important banding publication.

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OPERATION  
RECOVERY  
1957

Informal reports of the eleven stations taking part in Operation Recovery -- the cooperative banding study of the fall migration along the Atlantic Coast -- indicate more than 7300 birds banded. The Island Beach, New Jersey, station, under the leadership of Elise and Stanley Dickerson, led the way with 2786 birds of 91 species, September 7-21. EBBA members aiding the Dickersons included the Matlacks, the Townsends, Bill Pepper and daughter, Frank Frazier Sr & Jr, and others. A more detailed report will appear in the next issue -- and a formal paper is being prepared for BIRD-BANDING.

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