

might be nearby for some time, but only soar past the trap repeatedly. When one finally entered, a half dozen others would quickly follow it.

Song Sparrows and Redwings were strongly attracted by the bread bait. Sparrows could leave the trap between the strings or through the chicken wire, while Redwings could use the string exit easily and the wire one with a bit of squirming. Therefore I rigged the simplest of all traps, a drop-trap of hardware cloth propped up by a stick with a hand pull-string. When the gull catch fell off, I concentrated on the drop trap, catching 24 Sparrows and 27 Redwings, the latter a satisfaction to me in view of the F. & W. appeal to banders to trap more "blackbirds."

These remarks show that a bird-bander, removed from his banding station by virtue of going on vacation, need not leave his bands behind. With little expenditure of money or effort, he can by simple means expedite a banding venture that not only furthers the F. & W. program but also gives him a pleasant variation from his usual backyard activities.

BASIC BOOKS FOR BANDERS

By Frank P. Frazier

Every bander has his favorite reference books — for what it is worth, here is a list of mine. These are the guides I turn to in connection with banding activities. These are the books I like to have near me at all times.

1. The A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds, published by the American Ornithological Union. 5th Edition, 1957. This new edition is superb (latest previous edition was issued in 1931.)
2. A Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger Tory Peterson, and
3. Audubon Bird Guide, by Richard H. Pough. Both are fine books for the simpler problems of identifying, sexing and aging birds.
4. A Manual for the Identification of the Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring States, by Thomas S. Roberts. Very helpful for the knottier problems, since its plumage descriptions are taken directly from Ridgway, Bent, Forbush and Dwight.
5. Annotated List of New Jersey Birds, by David Fables, Jr. Useful only to New Jersey banders -- others will find their own regional lists indispensable.
6. Bird-Ringing, by R. M. Lockley and Rosemary Russell. A fine British book on the techniques of trapping and banding, obtainable from John

de Graff, Inc., 31 East 10th St., New York 3, N.Y. Price \$2.50. There is, alas, no American book on bird banding.

7. A Guide to Bird Watching, by Joseph J. Hickey. What I like most in this book, from the point of view of a bander, are the suggestions the author makes for bird studies.
8. Natural History of Birds, by Leonard W. Wing, and
9. A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology, by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. These two books contain a great deal of what is known about birds. The gaps in our knowledge are there for all to see. Like every bander, I hope my work with birds may help narrow these gaps.
10. The periodicals. EBBA NEWS for information on traps and baits, news of what other banders are doing or trying to do, tricks of the craft and matters of general interest. BIRD-BANDING, A Journal of Ornithological Investigation, for more scientific information. Its articles and general notes are of vital assistance and interest. Its reviews of articles, reports and books on banding and allied subjects, culled from every country in the world, can be found nowhere else.

Some day in the not too far distant future, I hope, enough of a new Manual of Bird Banding will be issued by the bird banding office. The need for such a manual, both by new banders and by veterans, is desperate.

CARELESS BANDING OF NESTLINGS

Harry E. Greenwald, Game Management Agent, Pennsville, New Jersey, writes regarding the banding of nestlings, especially gulls and terns: "I have at the present time two complaints from this summer. One from a lawyer in Maryland and the other from a doctor in Pennsylvania. These men came upon some birds that had lost the use of their toes due to the fact that the birds had been banded too young and the band had slipped down the leg and wedged on the toes. When the bird grew about the feet he could not use his toes because the band prevented him from spreading his toes. The remarks made by educated men after a situation such as this is not very complimentary to the banders nor the Service."

USE 1B BANDS ON DICKCISSELS

John Dennis writes that he banded a dozen Dickcissels on Nantucket in August and September and soon found that the 1 size bands were too tight. So make a note to band Dickcissels with 1B - not 1.
