

A SUGGESTED BANDING RECORD SYSTEM

By Geoffrey Gill

An essential requisite of interesting banding is a good record system. Such a system must be simple enough so that it does not become a tedious chore, yet must be complete enough so that it gives all the facts at a glance and can be readily understood by all banders.

There are several such systems which are good. These are the results of painful trial and error by banders throughout the country. Generally, these systems fall in three categories: the loose-leaf notebook (which has a tendency to grow bulky), the 3 x 5 index card system (which also grows and grows) and the "Year Book System" such as is outlined. (See illustration on following pages.)

The "Year Book System" is based on an ordinary Composition book such as is used in school and can be obtained in 36, 40, 48, 60 and 72 leaf styles. Each of these leaves has 23 lines and will take care of 23 birds. Depending upon the usual run of new birds banded each year you can purchase such a book for each year's banding. It is better to get a composition book a little larger than you expect to use for the banding and then the last few pages can be used for a list of returns and a list of special observations. I also keep a list of the birds found dead each year, usually the victims of auto traffic.

A double page is used for each bird and aside from the first set of double pages the headings are not necessary. A bander will have to individually rule each double page as he fills the pages out. Records are kept in numerical order of the band, since the number on the band is the key to the entire system. Since it is necessary to separate each species when making a report to Washington the second narrow little column is very important. As a record is transferred to the official form it is checked off in this column. A line drawn under a band number signifies a return or a recovery. Repeats, Returns and Recoveries appear on the same line as the original record but on the facing page. The 7th column denotes the type of trap that caught the bird originally. The two last columns give a running total of birds banded and a running total of the species banded.

(Editor's Note. As Mr. Gill points out in this article there are several excellent record systems. The next issue of THE RING will carry an article by EBBA treasurer Mrs. Stanley S. Dickerson describing the system she uses. It is hope that the publication of these record systems will stimulate suggestions for possible improvement -- resulting in a standard form we may make up for all members.)

-- See illustrations on next pages --

87 ①

Band. No.	Species	Sex	Age	Date
532-66101	Blue Jay		ad	Apr. 15-57
532-66102	Blue Jay		ad	Apr. 15-57
532-66103	Red Wing Blackbird	♂	ad	Apr. 15-57
583-18766	Purple Grackle	♂	ad	Apr. 16-57
583-18767	Purple Grackle	♂	ad	May 8-53
58-12017	Long Sparrow		ad	Apr 16-57
583-18768	Purple Grackle	♀	ad	Apr. 17-57
532-66104	Blue Jay		ad	Apr 17-57

- 1 - Running monthly total of captures
New Birds only
- 2 - This column for dash or check mark
when bird is reported to Wash.D.C.
- 3 - The band number is underlined showing
that it is a return. All returns are
kept in the back pages of the year
book in which they return. This
return would appear in the back of
the 1958 book, so that they would
be all together when reporting to
Wash. D.C.

Sample page

Trap	Repeats & Returns	⑤		⑥	
H.T.	Apr 18-22-28	24,301	1742		
HT	May 5-1958. May 6-7-	24,302	1743		
4P		24,303	671		
4P		24,304	1957		
4P	Formerly 603-10287 band worn changed 4/16/57				
4P	Sept 5-6-10	24,305	842		
3TD	front toe missing on band ft.	24,306	1958		
HT		24,307	1744		

- 4 - This is not only a return but also
the replacement of a worn band. The
date the bird was originally banded
appears in the date column and the
record doesn't add to any of the
running totals. It would appear in
1957 returns in back of book.
- 5 - Running total of all birds banded.
- 6 - Running total of all of a species
banded.

(See p.67 for further explanation)