

## PROBLEMS THAT TRAPPING-STATION OPERATORS MAY SOLVE (cont.)

## Excerpts from the Manual for Bird Banders

Territory. - What is the range limit during breeding, winter, or other seasons? What are the territorial limits about nests? Do both birds defend the territory?

Dispersal. - What are the facts in connection with dispersal of young that do not return to area where they were hatched? (This may have to do with extension of range locally or on a large scale.) What proportion of males and females return to the same nesting sites? When leaving the nest do the parents keep the young in the nesting locality or lead them into adjacent territory? How strong is the homing instinct of different species? (Test by experiment.)

Family groups. - What is the length of time that the unity of the family is preserved? Are these groups the family parties from a neighborhood? If not, are they grouped by age or sex?

Permanent residents. - Are so-called "permanent residents" the same individuals or is there a movement of greater or lesser extent in such species?

Longevity. - What is the normal length of life of different species as shown by yearly return records? (To be continued)

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## STRANGE COWBIRDS IN ROCKAWAY, N. J.

By Gail C. Cannon

On July 9, 1958 we trapped a bird that we had some difficulty in identifying. It was 7" long, with a cowbird head, flat on top. The bird was all grey on the back; there the similarity ended. When we had it in our hand, we saw that it had a large yellow throat-patch, breast completely washed with yellow with many grey spots. The under-tail coverts were washed with yellow, and the yellow on the face was streaked with grey. We first called Mr. C. K. Nichols of Ridgewood, N.J. As he was on his way to New York to the Museum of Natural History he could not look at it. We took it to Mrs. Dater, in Ramsey, N.J. After extensive reading we decided that it was a rather rare Juvenile Plumage. It is partly described in Swift's Sequences of Plumages and Moults. But it was much more yellow than he described, and the yellow was more generally distributed over the entire body. We banded the bird with band #56-121021 and released it in Ramsey, N.J.

Later, Mr. Nichols called to say he found five or six specimens that answered our description in the collection of bird skins at the Museum.