

CARDINAL WANDERS AND BANDER WONDERS . . .

By Robert L. Reddinger

While operating three must nets on October 29, 1961, I netted my first foreign recovery. The bird, a healthy adult male Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), was quickly taken to the house where my wife and father verified the band number -- 591-16615. After a re-examination of both bird and band, it was again set free.

Six months later, I received an IBM card giving the location of banding and the date, April 13, 1960. The co-ordinates put the location somewhere between Peoria and Bloomington, Illinois. Certainly, the journey of this Cardinal was an amazing feat, nearly six hundred miles!

In talking with Bob Leberman of Meadville, Pa., I found this recovery similar to the one reported in Bird-Banding, 29(4):244. Dorothy Bordner of State College, Pa., wrote that she had trapped an adult male Cardinal, band no. 55-129171, on May 2, 1958. This bird, banded by G. Hapgood Parks, in Hartford, Conn., on December 13, 1957, had made a flight of 270 air miles.

What explanation can be given for these individual performances? E. Alexander Bergstrom, in Bird-Banding (ibid.) writes, "The State College recovery suggests a southward retreat. . . under the impact of severe weather. . ." His statement concerning five northeasterly snow storms, in March of 1958, gives a satisfactory reason for this Cardinal's behavior. What would cause the 600 mile flight of the Cardinal recovered here? There should have been no problem in securing food. What effect do the eastward movements of highs and lows and their weather patterns have upon bird life? Population pressures and extension of range could also enter as possible reasons for migration. I do not know the answers; but any comments, ideas, or theories of others would prove interesting.

Rattlesnake Banding Station, Brockway, Pa.

RATTLESNAKE After two and a half years of week-end banding, (1056
FOOTNOTES. . . individuals), I have recovered two foreign birds. Aside
from the Cardinal mentioned above, I trapped a Tree
Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), #61-67811, on April 3, 1962. This bird,
banded by Ralph K. Bell at Clarksburg, Pa., on March 2, 1962, also re-
peated here on April 14. Recoveries of birds banded at our Rattlesnake
Station have been made at:

Economy, Pa. - A Starling banded 6/14/60;
recovered 2/22/61 - killed by a dog.

Louisiana - A White-throated Sparrow banded
5/7/61; found dead 1/3/62.

If some are puzzling over the name of the banding station, the answer is a simple one. The small stream running through the banding area is called Rattlesnake Run, hence, the name Rattlesnake Banding Station.