

MORE OLDER BIRDS, AS EVIDENCED BY RETURNS

By Kathleen S. Anderson

The Encephalitis Field Station, operated originally by the U. S. Public Health Service under the name of the Taunton Field Station, and currently operated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, has routinely banded birds at permanent study sites in Southeastern Massachusetts since 1957. As a consequence of regular netting and banding between April and October at established study sites, we have gradually accumulated evidence of longevity through returns of banded birds.

This routine banding has been part of ecological studies of arthropod-borne viruses. Most of these birds have repeatedly donated from 0.1 to 0.5 cc. of blood taken with a 25 gauge hypodermic needle from the jugular vein, making them all "experimental" birds in the terminology of the Bird-Banding Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The following list includes the longest-lived individuals of the twenty-four species we have taken in largest numbers:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Date Banded</u>	<u>Last Recapture</u>	<u>Minimum Age</u>
Yellow-shafted Flicker	A	F	06/22/60	08/02/66	7 years
Hairy Woodpecker	U	F	08/09/60	06/17/65	5 years
Downy Woodpecker	A	F	05/18/60	10/08/65	6 years
Black-capped Chickadee	A	U	08/02/60	09/22/64	5 years
Brown Creeper	A	U	08/07/62	10/19/65	4 years
Catbird	I	M	08/25/60	08/12/65	5 years
Robin	A	F	08/06/62	06/21/66	5 years
Wood Thrush	A	M	06/07/60	07/06/66	7 years
Hermit Thrush	A	M	08/06/62	06/21/66	5 years
Veery	A	F	06/21/60	06/06/66	7 years
Red-eyed Vireo	A	U	08/03/60	09/04/63	4 years
Black & White Warbler	A	M	06/13/61	07/27/64	4 years
Ovenbird	A	F	05/25/60	06/20/66	7 years
Northern Waterthrush	A	M	05/16/61	06/01/65	5 years
Yellowthroat	A	F	05/25/61	05/24/66	6 years
Canada Warbler	A	M	05/18/60	07/07/65	5 years
Redstart	A	M	08/07/63	07/09/64	2 years
Baltimore Oriole	A	M	05/16/62	05/28/64	3 years
Cowbird	A	F	06/01/62	05/05/65	4 years
Scarlet Tanager	A	F	06/15/64	08/01/66	3 years
American Goldfinch	A	M	05/24/61	05/05/64	4 years
Rufous-sided Towhee	A	F	06/26/61	07/15/64	4 years
Swamp Sparrow	A	F	06/05/61	08/12/65	5 years
Song Sparrow	A	M	05/16/61	05/05/64	4 years

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