



I have no way of knowing how many of EBBA's 734 members are active at Operation Recovery stations. Probably more than half our members miss the information sent by Chan Robbins to these stations. Please re-read the selections from this year's information to O.R. stations which are quoted on page 187 of the last issue of EBBA News (Vol. 30, No. 4) so that we can all know what is being emphasized and how the rest of us can also help.

These quotations emphasize the importance of ageing songbirds; furthermore, included with the usual O.R. forms was a new one entitled "Age Character Study". Briefly, this is a species sheet on which one records, in the proper column, those characteristics being used to age the particular species under study. Each bander can easily design his own. The following instructions were included at the bottom.

"Check age of each bird by skull ossification. Use one or more lines for each new bird banded. Blank columns may be used for other characters such as gape, bill color, color of primary or secondary coverts, alula, alula coverts, eye-ring, upper tail coverts or tail, or for notes on wing molt or body molt. Do not neglect to examine the shape of individual tail feathers. At close of season, summarize those characters that are found to be reliable indicators of age."

It is certainly evident from what needs to be learned about ageing songbirds that each and every one of us had best get down to a closer examination of our birds. Perhaps we should look together before we band together, or at least look twice as hard and band half as much.

Don't forget to review "The Topography of a Bird" by Dr. Charles Blake, in EBBA News Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 64-74 - or Workshop Manual Vol. III, 1964.

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