

FURTHER CATBIRD RECOVERIES

By Erma J. Fisk

Catbird recoveries from 1938-1969 were summarized by Kenneth W. Prescott (*EBBA News* 33:143-4) and two more were added in the recent Volume 35, page 162 by Robert P. Yunick.

Although Catbirds are the commonest roadkills I see, and from December 1966 to November 1, 1972 I have banded 2,950 at my Homestead, Fla. station, aside from the two Island Beach birds recovered here detailed by Prescott, and 4 local recoveries, I have had only 4 birds reported.

75-155320 banded on 11-2-69 (HY)
taken on 5-11-70 at Gray, Georgia
75-156012 banded on 10-21-70 (AHY)
trapped and released on 4-30-72 at Annandale, Va.
74-170361 banded on 11-5-71 (HY)
killed by a cat at Chapel Hill, N.C., on 6-12-72.
74-170404 banded on 11-7-71 (AHY)
killed by a car, Clewiston, Fla., on 2-16-72.
74-105065 banded at Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Mass.,
on 8-7-69 when I was bander-in-charge,
killed by a cat on 6-?-70 two doors from my summer
home in South Orleans, Massachusetts.

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

THE BIRD BANDING LABORATORY, IS BRINGING UP TO DATE, EXPANDING AND RE-EDITING MERRILL WOOD'S BOOK, A BIRDBANDER'S GUIDE TO DETERMINATION OF AGE AND SEX OF SELECTED SPECIES. THIS WILL BE VOLUME TWO OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING MANUAL, BUT THE COMPONENT PARTS WILL COME OUT SEPARATELY AS THEY ARE DONE, BEGINNING WITH FRINGILLIDS.

WILL ANYONE WITH MORE RECENT INFORMATION, EMENDATIONS TO OR CRITICISMS OF THE MATERIAL AS PUBLISHED IN WOOD PLEASE SEND THEM TO:

MRS. BRADLEY FISK
17101 S.W. 284 STREET, HOMESTEAD, FLA. 33030.

OTHER QUESTIONS EXPLORED FOR THE BANDING LABORATORY BY MRS. FISK, WHICH NEED ANSWERING ARE THE FOLLOWING:

¶ HOW LONG DO IMMATURE BIRDS KEEP THE BRIGHT MOUTH COLOR OF THE NESTLING? If this could be determined, it could be a characteristic as good as skulling, and easier to use for determination of age.

As it is hoped to use this characteristic in the new Guide to Ageing and Sexing that the Bird Banding Laboratory will put out, any material on the Fringillids would go to immediate use, and information on other species would be welcomed:

¶ ROSEBREASTED GROSBEEK
¶ EVENING GROSBEEK
¶ INDIGO BUNTING
¶ PAINTED BUNTING
¶ DICKCISSEL
¶ PURPLE FINCH
¶ AMERICAN GOLDFINCH
¶ RUFOUS SIDED TOWHEE
¶ JUNCOS
¶ PINE GROSBEEK
¶ REDPOLLS
¶ SISKIN
¶ CROSSBILLS
¶ LONGSPUR
¶ SNOW BUNTING
¶ ALL SPARROWS.....

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED SPECIES OR GROUPS OF SPECIES, AS WELL AS DATA FOR FRINGILLIDS, PLEASE FORWARD SAME TO MRS. FISK. THIS REQUEST IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SINCE THE DATA WILL ULTIMATELY BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL BANDERS.

ONCE AGAIN, MRS. FISK'S ADDRESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

MRS. BRADLEY FISK
17101 S.W. 284 Street
Homestead, Florida 33030

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MANY, IF NOT MOST, BIRDERS HAVE HAD THE EXPERIENCE THAT A CAPTURED BIRD SUDDENLY DIED IN THE TRAP OR IN THE NET. AUTOPSIES OF SUCH BIRDS USUALLY DO NOT REVEAL ANY REAL CAUSE AND THE STATEMENT THAT SUCH DEATHS ARE EQUIVALENT TO HUMAN HEART ATTACKS ARE BASED ON LITTLE MORE THAN A GUESS.

A RESEARCH TEAM AT HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL IS NOW EXAMINING CASES OF SUDDEN DEATH IN ANIMALS AND WOULD BE WILLING TO EXAMINE SUCH BIRDS PROVIDED THEY ARE IN FRESH CONDITION. THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE DEEP-FROZEN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEATH.

ANYONE WHO ENCOUNTERS SUCH A CASE OF SUDDEN DEATH IN A TRAPPED BIRD, AND WOULD LIKE TO LEARN THE CAUSE, MAY SEND THE DEEP-FROZEN SPECIMEN TO DR. JACOB FINE, SEARS LABORATORY, HARVARD SURGICAL UNIT, BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02118.