

BAND RECOVERY IN AN OWL PELLET

ROBERT C. DEWIRE

While going through some owl pellets at the Mid-Fairfield County Youth Museum, one of the boys on the Museum's Junior Staff discovered a bird band in one of them. He reported the band to me, the number of which was 703-77027. The band was one that I had put on a mourning dove that was AHY - M on January 7, 1971. The pellet had been picked up in a pine grove on the Museum property just over 100 feet away from my banding station. The owl dropping the pellets is a barred owl who roosts in a small white pine grove where the band was discovered. Pellets are removed regularly from the grove to analyze their contents, so that this particular pellet was no more than two weeks older than the time of its discovery which was April 2, 1972. Up to this point we had found no indication of birds in this owl's diet. Doves are common in the area and have been observed going to roost in this same grove.

--Mid-Fairfield County Youth Museum
Westport, Conn.

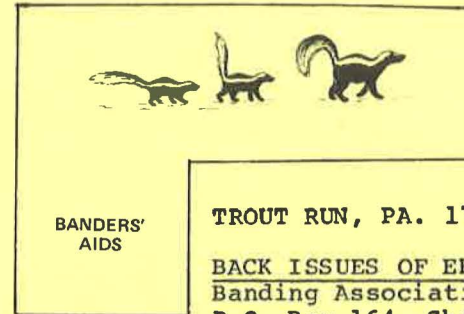
* * *

MOCKINGBIRD DATA WANTED

The South Shore of Massachusetts has seen a population explosion of mockingbirds in the past ten years. From one known breeding location (Jones River, Kingston, Mass.) the species can now be found in any town with little effort.

The undersigned is interested in any work done on sexing mockingbirds by wing length. Published data on mockingbirds is slim. If you have wing lengths on birds of known sex, would you please forward them to MBO. Any other banding data would be appreciated.

--(Ms.) Jean L. Nichols, Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 0, Manomet, Mass. 02345

BANDERS'
AIDS

TROUT RUN, PA. 17771.

BACK ISSUES OF EBBA NEWS: Order from Eastern Bird Banding Association, c/o DOROTHY (Mrs. Roger) FOY, P.O. Box 164, Ship Bottom, New Jersey 08008.

BACK ISSUES OF EBBA NEWS AND OTHER MAGAZINES: For information write to Mabel Warburton, 15 SOUTH BELL AVENUE, YARDLEY, PA. 19067.

EBBA MIST NETS are available only in sizes listed below. Prices were increased recently, due to the current price increases in Japan (1 June 1973). †-Sustaining Members; \$-Active Members.

MESH	5-METER		9-METER		12-METER	
	†Sust.	\$Act.	†Sust.	\$Act.	†Sust.	\$Act.
1-1/2"	\$1.95	\$2.30			\$3.40	\$3.80
1-1/4"	\$2.65	\$2.95			\$5.00	\$5.50
2-1/2"					\$5.30	\$5.90
5"					\$3.40	\$3.80
	NYLON TETHERED-TOP FOWLING NETS					
1-1/4"			\$4.35	\$4.80	\$5.45	\$6.05
1-1/2"			\$3.10	\$3.45	\$3.90	\$4.30
1-1/4"x2.6M.					\$5.45	\$6.05
	POLYESTER TETHERED FOWLING NETS					
1-1/2"			\$4.90	\$5.50	\$6.70	\$7.40
1-1/4"			\$6.15	\$6.80	\$8.05	\$8.95

Checks must accompany orders. Please write for order form. Reg. Parcel Post on all orders over \$10.00. There is a charge of 50¢ on all orders under \$10.00. Write to: EBBA NET COMMITTEE, Biology Dept., Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa. 15701. Penna. residents please add 6% Sales Tax.

PESOLA SCALES, Mist nets and Other Supplies are available from Bleitz Wildlife Foundation, 5334 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90027. Bleitz Wildlife Foundation is the only source in the U.S. selling both Pesola Balances and mist nets of colors other than black. Nets made of terylene and monofilament are also available. Write for pricelist.

SUPERIOR MIST NETS are also available from the North-Eastern Bird Banding Association. Made of teteron (a polyester), these nets feature extra-full cut pockets. Discounts for quantity, cash, NEBBA membership are available. Write for further information from MANOMET BIRD OBSERVATORY, Box 0, Manomet, Mass. 02345.

POTTER TRAPS: 16 Gauge, 1/2"x1" welded mesh. 1-Cell 8"x8"x8" \$3.50; 2-Cell 8"x8"x16" \$6.00; 3-Cell 8"x8"x21" \$9.00 4-Cell 8"x16"x16" \$12.00. Also others. Ppd. in the East; Permit Number Requested. Order from: WALTER K. BIGGER,

THE BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY offers terelyne mist nets favored at many of the larger and particularly, professional research stations. The current price (in BRITISH POUNDS) for the most popularly used size (40' or 12METER/xl-1/4" MESH) is UKL. 8.00. For further information write: British Trust for Ornithology, Att: Mrs. Elizabeth Mason, Beech Grove, Tring (Herts.) England.

EBBA ARM PATCHES are \$1.00 each; WORKSHOP MANUALS are \$1.25 each. Volume I, III & V are out of print. Volumes II and IV are still available in limited quantities. EBBA RECORDS SHEETS contain space for 50 bands on each side. They are standard 8-1/2"x11" sheets, holed for insertion in standard three-ring binders, of durable paper. Prices: 40 sheets for \$1.75; 100 sh. for \$3.50. Order from: WILLIAM PEPPER, 445 EAST ABINGTON AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19118.

BANDING PLIERS: Long Nose Pliers with openers and holes to fit band sizes. One plier handles size 0, 1, 1B and 1A: \$6.50; the other handles soft and hard 2 and 3 bands: \$6.50. There is also a pair for size 3A for \$5.50. Ppd. in USA. Order from: R.N. MACDONALD, 850 MAIN STREET, LYNNFIELD, MA. 01940.

GATHERING CAGES. Wooden, Mahogany color, finished with clear plastic. Prepaid east of Miss.- 8 cell \$16.00; 10 cell \$20.00; 12 cell \$24.00; 15 cell \$30.00; 16 cell \$32.00. Order from: RAY P. MARGERUM, 375 SECOND STREET, TRENTON, N.J. 08611.

WING MEASURE. 6" and 30cm Stainless Steel Rule. The 6" rule is metric-english, rigid, 3/4" wide, graduated in 10th and 32nds inch, .5mm, mm, and cm. The 30cm model is spring tempered, satin-chrome finish, 12.7mm wide, .33mm thick, 30cm long. It is graduated on the three edges in mm, one edge .5mm. Both rules feature a Stainless Steel "bend of wing" fixture secured at right angles to the end of the rule. The 6" rule is \$4.85 ppd; the 30cm rule is \$15.00 ppd., within USA. Institutional orders: please remit when ordering only one unit. Order from: CHRIS N. ROSE, 98 LOPEZ ROAD, CEDAR GROVE, N.J. 07009.

MOSQUITOE HEADNETS USED AS HOLDING BAGS are not easy to obtain. After an extensive search for models suitable for this function, we found the only source, offering consistently the same model: HERTER'S INC., ROUTE 2, MITCHELL, S.D. 57301. When writing this company, please refer to Stock Number AJ9G1 "Herter's Universal Improved Insect Headnet". Supplies are limited or non-existent during the winter months. (This is not an advertisement for Herter's Inc. The information is provided by the Editor so that banders can obtain this product easily.) Editor

EBBA NEWS accepts advertisements free of charge for items related to bird banding activities. Advertisers should reconfirm their ads once a year in January. If we do not hear from our clients, the ads will be taken out. No commercial ads accepted. Editor

August 1973

179

MAILBAG

June 10, 1973, South Orleans, Mass....DO NOT AGE AMERICAN GOLD-FINCH BY THE OLYPHANT SYSTEM (*Bird-Banding* 1972, 43:173-181). The Olyphant System for ageing American Goldfinch, recently reprinted by WEBBA, used the white at the base of some primaries as a diagnostic characteristic.

These white 'spots' have not proved valid for returns at Manomet Bird Observatory, at the Fisk Station at S. Orleans, Cape Cod, Mass., and for one bird reported to Fisk by Dorothy Bördner in February (a fully adult male).

Number 1270-43888 was banded at Manomet on 8/2/72 as an adult female with a 3 broodpatch and 3 ossification. It returned 6/1/73 with 17mm of white on the outermost of the white 'spotted' feathers, measured from the base of the feather.

Number 1310-07142, taken at Manomet 6/4/73 was ASY-M with more than 20mm of white.

Band Number 78-65947, banded 8/5/72 as AHY-F with a brood spot returned 6/7/73 with 18mm of white, to Fisk at S. Orleans.

Band 125-22208 banded by Fisk as AHY-M 8/13/71 returned 6/7/73 with concealed white.

Four birds judged SY-F on the basis of their nondescript olive plumage, taken by Fisk the first week in June showed no white at all.

This white can be recorded as Minimal, Concealed, Visible or Prominent; or if time permits can (and should on a fair sample) be measured either from the base of the outermost primary, or if only the visible portion is recorded, from the covert. The latter will not present a true picture. Admittedly the sample contradicting the Olyphant system is small. The species should be studied further to find out the significance of this character.

Erma J. Fisk