

Another Recovery from a Nest of Banded Crows.—An earlier report was made (*Bird-Banding* 13(3):120, 1942) of three recoveries from a nest of five crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos* Brehm) banded at Bedford, Ohio, on May 18, 1941. One was recovered at Cleveland on June 7 and two at Oxford on September 24 of the same year. A fourth recovery (*Biol. Surv.* 39—520913) was made in August, 1942, when this one was shot at Hudson, Ohio, by Leon Bennett, Jr.—RALPH W. DEXTER, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

A Blue Jay Recovery.—So few returns are received from banded Blue Jays that each one received which shows any distance traveled by the jay is of considerable interest. One of my Blue Jays banded at Newton Highlands on August 15, 1940, was found dead under a pine tree in East Weymouth, Massachusetts, February 21, 1943, which represents a distance of about twelve or fourteen air miles. This is not a great distance, to be sure, but it may be of some interest.—C. RUSSELL MASON, 66 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Size of Robin Broods¹.—In the period 1932–1942 inclusive, 86 broods containing a total of 248 nestling Robins (*Turdus m. migratorius*) were banded at the Wharton Bird Banding Station at Groton, Massachusetts. Because it is felt that the number of nestlings banded per brood is an excellent index to the number of viable nestlings per brood hatched, the data accumulated for the Robin are presented herewith in tabular form:

Year	Number in Brood					Totals		Average	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Broods		Nestlings
1932.....	3	1	5	5	..	..	14	40	2.82
1933.....	2	1	5	5	..	1	14	45	3.07 ²
1934.....	2	3	9	3	..	..	17	47	2.76
1935.....	..	5	3	3	..	..	11	31	2.81
1936.....	1	3	2	2	..	..	8	21	2.62
1937.....	..	..	3	3	..	..	6	21	3.50
1938.....	1	2	1	..	..	..	4	8	2.00
1939.....	1	1	1	3	..	..	6	18	3.00
1940.....	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	3	3.00
1941.....	..	1	2	..	..	..	3	8	2.66
1942.....	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	6	3.00
Totals.....	10	18	32	25	0	1	86	248	
								Average for period... 2.86 ²	

In explanation of the occurrence of the one brood of six nestlings, the following excerpts from the record are given:

"June 12, 1933:—The female laid one egg and was disturbed and left for a day or so, laying another egg on the ground nearby. This was placed in the nest with the other one. Later the bird returned and laid four more eggs. At the time of banding, there was great disparity of size in the brood.

"June 18, 1933:—Only three nestlings seen in the nest. As the last three banded were the smallest, the first three banded are probably the ones surviving."

It is interesting to note that although this particular brood began with six

¹ A contribution from the Wharton Bird Banding Station.

² Corrected to discount the two first clutch eggs referred to in text below.

members, its size was ultimately reduced to "average." Thus it would seem entirely probable that the factor or factors responsible for the evolution of the Robin's brood size are still at work, inexorably reducing the abnormal to the normal.

The diminution in the number of broods banded in the latter part of the period, reflects a change of policy in respect to the banding of nestling birds in open nests. It was decided it was better management to leave entirely undisturbed most such nests, relying on taking the immature birds in the traps later. It was felt that this practice would reduce possible mortality by predators following the disturbance of the nest site by the banding operation. The soundness of this policy has been frequently demonstrated since it was inaugurated. Exceptions were made when nests were found so located that the nearness of human activities seemed to give them some protection, or when the educational value obtained from banding a brood was believed likely to outweigh the risk taken.

The above table indicates the Robin hatches from one to four eggs usually. Most of the broods hatched fall in the three member category. Experience shows that second broods are smaller than first broods. Unfortunately this is not revealed by the data presented, for the reason that no easily accessible record differentiating the two groups was made. The average number of nestlings per brood banded ranged from 2.00 in 1938 to 3.50 in 1937, the all-over average being 2.86.—EDWIN A. MASON, Wharton Bird Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts.

Recoveries from Migrating Bronzed Grackles.—Since reporting in *Bird Banding*, XIII (3): 105-107, the five recoveries from the 130 bird flock of migrating Grackles banded at Groton in the spring of 1939, two more birds have been recorded as shot in Canada during the breeding season. They are:

<i>Banded</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
37-300261 (male) . . . Apr. 12, 1939	Maitland, Nova Scotia May 20, 1942
38-360509 (male) . . . Apr. 15, 1939	Martock, Nova Scotia . . . (about) June 15, 1942

These two additional records bring the percentage of recovery from this flock to 5.38%. Six of the seven recoveries were males. Five were from the nesting territory and two from the wintering grounds. While the 15-year-old Grackle reported by Cook (*Bird Banding* XIII (3): p. 116), stated to be apparently the oldest record to date for a passerine species, gives some hope that still other birds may be heard from, it would seem that already a greater than usual percentage of recoveries has resulted. The occurrence of the terms "killed" and "shot" as cause of death in the reports, indicates an unnatural mortality factor for the species due to its presumable conflict with agricultural interests.—EDWIN A. MASON, Wharton Bird Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts.

Banding a Scarlet Tanager.—In June 1942 a pair of Scarlet Tanagers nested in an oak tree beside our summer camp at Holderness, New Hampshire. When the young left the nest, I secured one and placed it in a chardonneret trap on the piazza. The male finally entered the trap to feed the fledgling and in this way was caught and banded.—KATHARINE C. HARDING, Cohasset, Massachusetts.

Junco Returns.—The interesting return of a pair of Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco h. hyemalis*) occurred at my station here recently. On January 10, 1942 five of these juncos from a small flock were banded. Among them were 40-99262, an adult male, and 40-99263, another adult bird, sex undetermined.

Except for a single repeat by 40-99262 on the following day, neither bird was