

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

again recaptured until December 14, 1942. Upon this latter date the two birds were trapped together as simultaneous returns. And an interesting new observation was made, also: 40-99263 had returned in typical female plumage.—G. HARGOOD PARKS, 99 Warrenton Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

An Eight Year Old Song Sparrow.—On April 5, 1943 I took a return Song Sparrow at my Station banded by me on April 27, 1936. Since this bird could not have been hatched later than the summer of 1935, it is now in its eighth year.—KATHARINE C. HARDING, Cohasset, Massachusetts.

RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Donald S. Farner

BANDING STUDIES

1. Experiment on Transporting Alpine Swifts, *Micropus melba melba* L., from Solothurn, Switzerland to Lisbon, Portugal. (Verfrachtungsversuch mit Alpenseglern, *Micropus melba melba* L., Solothurn-Lissabon.) A. Schifferli. 1942. *Der Ornithologische Beobachter*, 39: 145-150. Twenty-eight birds were trapped and marked two weeks before the egg-laying time and transported by airplane to Lisbon, Portugal where they were released. Twelve returned to the nesting sites where they were trapped. The first three returned within three

days; the others within the next few days. At least twenty of the twenty-eight were more than one year old (banding data). The birds were marked with red ink and by glueing a white chicken feather on the head. Of particular importance is the fact that nine of the twenty-eight birds were trapped on nests. Of these nine, seven returned after being transported to Portugal. It is unfortunate that the war has interrupted this interesting research.

2. Banding Studies on the Alpine Swift, *Micropus melba melba*, L., Age and Returns to Nesting Sites. (Beringungsergebnisse der Alpensegler, *Micropus melba melba* L., Alter und Nistplatztreue.) H. Arn. 1942. *Der Ornithologische Beobachter*, 39: 150-162. During the period, 1925-1940, 2,556 birds were banded. Constant trapping on a church roof in Solothurn yielded many returns; eighty-four were recaptured in at least two different seasons after banding; eighty-four were recaptured once after the year in which they were banded. Seventy birds banded as young were recaptured or recovered dead; the greatest age was fourteen years; mean age was 4.53 years. Banding data establish the fact that young breed when two years old. Sixty-two nesting birds were observed (by trapping) for more than one season; thirty-three used the same nesting site during the seasons in which they were observed; thirteen changed nesting sites; in sixteen cases observations were uncertain. Two birds retained their nesting sites for ten seasons. A very fruitful banding project.

3. Some Age Records for Banded Birds. Amelia R. Laskey. 1943. *The Migrant*, 14: 5-8. This paper summarizes 229 records of Chimney Swifts and twenty-five passerine species in which an age of three and one-half years or more was attained. Eighty-one Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica* (L.)) were at least four years old; two were at least five; and there were individual records of six, seven, nine and eleven years. Other interesting records are: Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor* (L.)), six years; Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus* (Lath.)), five years; Robin (*Turdus migratorius migratorius* L.),