

it is this date which may be expected to yield the evidence of such changes. In my area the winter carrying capacity seems to vary much more than the summer capacity. I believe the area has been working at its maximum capacity in terms of breeding pairs although it does not always seem to have produced the maximum number of young birds. However, since chickadees are essentially independent of their parents before they can be trapped the variation in numbers on 1 September may represent, in part, a variable amount of wandering off by the young.

I have assumed that the death rate does not vary with season. This may not be entirely true but there is not yet any way of stating the variation accurately.

The loss during a period (Table II) may be mostly from birds which move away and never return to my vicinity even though they may live months or years longer. On the other hand, the gain must consist of new bandings less any moving away. That the second effect is rather small may be concluded from the fact that the sum of the gains (Table II) and the throughputs within a period (Table III) is 44.4 while the average number of new bandings is 51.5 per year. Seven birds per year are unaccounted for. The method of tallying and calculation is such that the figures in Table III are independent of those in Table II.

The small number of birds banded in one period and last recorded in the immediately succeeding one compared with those banded and last recorded within one period validates my choice of tally dates as dates of population stability.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

GENERAL NOTES

New Age Record for a Blue Jay.—Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) No. 35-336385 was banded by me at 5833-85th Street, Elmhurst, Long Island, New York, on May 11, 1939. This bird was retrapped by Leonard Llewellyn on January 16, 1948, in a boxtrap at the Patuxent Research Refuge at Laurel, Maryland. On March 4, 1952, the Blue Jay was again caught in a boxtrap which was set out on the Patuxent Research Refuge during the month of March for the capture of small mammals alive. Mr. Oscar Warbach, a biologist at the Refuge, writes me that the trap was baited with an ear of corn and a piece of smoked herring.

When Mr. Warbach handled the bird he noticed nothing unusual in its actions that would indicate that it was an old bird. It jumped about the trap as he approached it in the same manner as other younger birds. The edges of the band were worn thin but the numbers were still very legible and the band showed little wear.

Mr. Warbach states that the bird lay quietly in his hands while he was examining it and made no attempt to peck him or to escape. When released, it flew into the nearby pines and disappeared without a scolding note.

This second recovery at the Refuge of the bird was about 1700 feet away from the place where it was trapped on January 16, 1948.

Mr. Seth Low reports that according to the files at Washington, D. C., this is the oldest Blue Jay on record.—Marie V. Beals, 165 South Marengo Avenue, Pasadena 5, California.

Robin Movements in North Dakota.—On July 14 a woman reported a dead robin found on the other side of town about two miles away. This proved to be one which I had banded September 26, 1948, and was the fourth of about 100