

robins banded in five days, on which returns have been obtained. Another bird, banded the same day, was caught the next April by W. E. Brentzel who lives only two blocks from us. A third, banded the same day, was found dead at Napoleonville, Louisiana, on January 31, 1949, and one banded the following day at Kellyville, Oklahoma, December 25, 1950.

From similar periods in 1947 and 1948, there are also four records. One bird, banded October 1, 1947, was found dead about one-half mile east on May 24, 1948. I had a sight record of this bird at my window shelf on May 9. Another, banded October 5, 1947, was trapped at the same location, July 23, 1948. One bird banded September 28, 1948, was found dead June 1, 1951, about one-half mile east. One banded September 29, 1948, was found caught in a tree by a string on May 14, 1949, on the other side of town about two miles from the place of banding.

I have many other cases of birds banded in the fall and found or trapped in spring or summer in following years. One banded September 2, 1937, was a raisin box guest and was caught October 6, 1940. Another, also a raisin box bird, was banded October 4, 1942, and recaptured October 11, 1943, and September 23, 1947. A third, banded October 22, 1940, was recovered at Irma, Alberta, Canada, on June 29, 1943. The two robins previously cited (*Bird-Banding* XV: 142) as recovered at Oriska and Grand Forks, North Dakota are still the only cases which suggest a change of residence.

I have not been able to tell much about robin migration. They gather in the college orchard where fruit is usually abundant and a large number are often taken from the middle of September up to October 1. Usually they are in waves, many for two or three days, then few for a few days. Some evenings flocks will be seen flying southeastward, and few birds are seen the next day.

The question is, where do they come from? Are they birds from farther north or merely local birds which have gathered before leaving? The above records show that six in the three years did return (the bird caught in April might have gone on north but it is not probable), presumably to nest here. The winter recoveries are non-committal. We have of course practically no chance of capturing individuals which have been banded farther north.

Mr. Tyler, writing in Bent's Life Histories, states that the first robins arriving in New England migrate farther north and that the local birds arrive later. That is not the case in this area. I recall distinctly that on my first visit with Dr. T. S. Roberts I mentioned that robins were usually seen first on the south side of Fargo and probably it took them a few days to move across town. He looked at me with kindly tolerance and stated that the first birds to arrive were the local residents.

Since that date the truth of his statement has been more firmly impressed by observation. Sometimes the first arrival drops down to our raisin box. More often he sings from some tree in the neighborhood for several days before another bird appears. Later in the spring I may see robins in some numbers in unusual places or I may not notice such. Rarely do they congregate in large numbers and I do not get them in the traps. One year I made a special effort to count them daily for Dr. Speirs on our largest area of campus but the results seemed without significance.

Other observations indicate that local birds at least often remain until late in the fall and this is what would be expected from general migration patterns. A particular bird often is a regular visitor to the raisin box until about October 15-20, when he disappears. Only a few robins are seen after that date, but an occasional bird until about November 1. The large number of returns and local recoveries from late fall banded birds seems to indicate that these fall groups are composed of local birds. During the summer they would be scattered over a considerable area, say six to ten square miles. The local recoveries must be only a small fraction of the resident banded birds. Perhaps there is no considerable migration through the area as a rule.—O. A. Stevens, State College Station, Fargo, North Dakota.

**Foot Pox in Passerines.** While there has been a good deal of interest in this condition (see for example Dr. Meade's note in *Bird-Banding*, 16: 38), it has been sporadic rather than intensive. This is induced by a virus, *epithelioma contagiosum*, which produces wart-like growths on the toes and tarsi, occasionally around the base of the bill. Toes are often lost. Banders have a particular interest in it,

because of the possibility that its spread is promoted by the gathering of considerable numbers of birds to feed in a small area, as in most winter banding in the northern states. Apart from natural distaste for having the banding station bring about extensive injuries, the condition interferes with the normal movement of birds and reduces the chance of worthwhile return and recovery records. The worst outbreak at our station came in March, 1950, at the sites used since fall, and involved largely Tree Sparrows, *Spizella arborea*, which had been in the vicinity for months and repeated in the traps up to 50 or 100 times.

While field observation can produce only part of the data needed for more thorough knowledge, it can contribute a great deal, and banders are urged to keep notes at their own stations, sending summaries to me occasionally. What species does foot pox occur in? How many individuals and what proportion of each species were observed to be affected? Does it seem to occur in warm weather or cold, dry or wet, or is there no apparent difference? What proportion of the affected individuals lost toes, and how many? Did any home remedy such as the application of alcohol or iodine to the affected parts seem to be helpful? Did the condition occur among birds concentrated on limited trap sites? If so, did it appear to be feasible to decontaminate the sites (and traps and gathering cages) by boiling water or some disinfectant? If not, was a change of trap site effective? Some of these questions may prove not to be pertinent when more is known about foot pox, but it is likely to be some time before the gaps in our knowledge of it are closed.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.

## RECENT LITERATURE

### BANDING

(See also Numbers 12, 43.)

**1. What Tag Recoveries Show about the Home Range of Blackgame and Capercaillie.** (Mitä Merkitsemistulokset Osoittavat Metsälintujemme Asuinalueen Laajuudesta.) Jukka Koskimies. 1951 (1952). *Suomen Riista* (Helsinki) 6: 155-156 (English summary p. 194). Reports six recoveries of Blackgame and five of Capercaillie tagged with the wing mark of the Finnish Game Foundation. Of the Blackgame two were taken where marked, the other four were shot 9, 10, 12, and 23 km. respectively from the marking place. One Capercaillie was retaken where marked, the others 10, 10, 16, and 23 km. distant respectively. "It has been generally recognized that blackgame and capercaillie at least occasionally perform even considerable movements. The tag recoveries seem to indicate that even under quite normal conditions the home range of these birds is remarkably wide."—O. L. Austin, Jr.

**2. British Trust for Ornithology, Eighteenth Annual Report (1951).** 40 pp., 1 fig., 1s 6d. Oxford, 1952. While the results of the work of the Trust include a number of original papers each year in journals like *British Birds*, the annual report covers a wide variety of research projects for which detailed reports are not ready. The Trust has made excellent use of the efforts of widely scattered observers. In all too many instances local bird clubs in the United States and Canada offer little constructive outlet for the activities of those of their members who have reached the point of recognizing almost all local species at first sight. At the same time extensive data on most field problems remain hard to gather. It is gratifying to note the "great expansion and progress for the British Bird Observatories" in 1951, as most of these combine the reception of a large number of visitors with extensive and productive banding operations. The Trust's bird-ringing scheme set a new record in birds ringed (85,743) and passed the mark of a million ringed. A Manx Shearwater ringed at Skokholm in Pembrokeshire on Sept. 10, 1951, and recovered at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on November 20 is the first British ringed bird recovered from South America. Another transatlantic Kittiwake recovery is represented by a bird ringed at Lundy in Devon on July 10, 1950, and reported at Notre Dame Bay, Newfoundland, on November 5, 1951.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.