

Technique for Recording Field Data in the Rain.—Most field researchers have probably often or at least occasionally had to record field data during a rainfall. This is usually difficult or at least unpleasant when no shelter is available. The following simple method of recording data in the rain has proved successful. The researcher simply places his notebook or clip-board inside a transparent polyethylene bag; then, with his writing-hand and pencil or India ink pen placed inside the bag, he proceeds to record the data watching what he is writing through the water-proof, transparent side of the bag. The size of the bag depends on the size of the notebook and how much space is required for writing and manipulating the paper.—Spencer G. Sealy, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C., Canada.

Bill Deformity in a Brown Thrasher.—While participating in Island Beach (New Jersey) Operation Recovery 24 September 1967, I netted an unusual Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). The upper mandible was deformed so strongly on the right side of the lower mandible that its tip pointed toward the right wing. Its entire appearance and behavior was that of a healthy bird. It protested handling and flew away strongly when released. It was banded 722-56804 and recorded HY-U.

Thus, the Brown Thrasher should be added to the six species listed by Raymond McNeil (*Bird-Banding*, 38: 324-25) as having bill deformities:

- American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
- Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)
- Redshank (*Totanus calidris*)
- Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
- Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
- Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*)

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RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

1. Report on Bird-ringing in 1966. Robert Spencer. 1967. *British Birds*, 60(11): 429-475. "Two milestones [in banding in Great Britain] were passed during the year: the ringing of the five millionth bird since the inception of the scheme [in 1909]; and the marking of 100,000 nestlings in a single breeding season for the first time." Seven species were new to the list — a Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) caught in a mist-net (1), and six species from North America — two sandpipers and four passerines. The most amazing recovery was that of an Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) ringed as a chick in Angelsey on June 28, 1966, found dead in New South Wales, Australia on December 31, 1966. This recovery "is much the most distant for any species to result from British ringing and would command a very high place in any world list of the most spectacular recoveries." A map is given of recoveries of Collared Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) which shows the continued westward expansion of the species. Other maps show all foreign recoveries of the Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*), Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochrurus*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), and Brambling (*F. montifringilla*). A notable report.—Margaret M. Nice.

2. Notes from Falsterbo Bird Station Summer and Fall 1964. Report No. 36. (Notiser från Falsterbo fågelstation sommaren och hösten 1964.) Gunnar Roos. 1967. *Vår Fågelvärld*, 26: 256-265. (English summary.) The decrease in common raptors appears to continue. It is estimated that the yearly totals for such species as *Falco peregrinus*, *Buteo buteo*, and *Accipiter nisus*, are now 10, 40 and 50 percent, respectively, below Rudebeck's counts in the beginning of the 1940s. By contrast, the rarer raptors, including kites, eagles and harriers, were