

Recent Literature

ANALYTICAL STUDIES

Annual Adult Survival Rates of Blackbirds and Starlings. Don P. Fankhauser. 1971. *Bird-banding*, 42: 36-42.

Survival rates for adults of four species—Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*, Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*, Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*—were calculated from two sets of data for North American birds. As would be expected survival rates calculated from retraps are lower than those calculated from recovery data of dead birds. Calculated survival rates were

| Species | Annual Adult Survival Rate | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| | From Retraps | | From Dead Recoveries | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Cowbird | 36.4 | 31.0 | 48.5 | 40.4 |
| Grackle | 45.0 | 44.0 | 49.9 | 53.5 |
| Blackbird | 42.1 | 43.3 | 42.6 | 59.1 |
| Starling | 36.4 | 32.2 | 53.8 | 38.5 |

The Author accepts the survival rates calculated from recoveries of Cowbirds and Grackles, as adequate numbers of recoveries of these two species are available. For the Blackbird and Starling, he rejects the recovery calculated survival rate on the basis of too few recoveries. The average Cowbird and Grackle survival rate from retraps is 9.0% lower than that calculated from recovery data. The survival rates for Blackbirds and Starlings are then calculated by adding 9.0% to the survival rate calculated from retraps, on the assumption that survival rates calculated from retraps should be a similar 9.0% too low. This is a highly suspect procedure; in the reviewer's opinion, it would have been better if the recovery data had been presented with the comment that the data were too meagre for reliable survival calculations.

Percentages of Grackles Taken in Subsequent Breeding Seasons in a Different Breeding Area from the Area Where Banded. Don P. Fankhauser. 1971. *Bird-banding*, 42:43-5.

The proportions of Grackles *Quiscalus quiscula* recovered in a different area from where banded is calculated for adults and young (male; female and unsexed). Overall recoveries showed that 9% of birds found dead and 15% of birds shot were recovered away from the banding area. The significance of this difference is discussed. The only reason postulated is that the difference may be due to banders reporting birds killed accidentally during trapping and banding operations as "found dead". It is to be hoped that the Australian Bird-banding Scheme recovery data are not similarly biased.

TECHNIQUES

Sex and Age Criteria in the Slate-coloured Junco. Gilbert S. Grant and Thomas L. Quay. 1970. *Bird-banding*, 41:274-8.

Many Juncos *Junco hyemalis* can be sexed on the basis of wing measurement (those less than 73 mm are females; those more than 78 mm are males) but there is considerable overlap. Similarly many can be sexed on colour (those "very brown to quite brown are females"; those "slight brown to no brown" are males) but again birds of intermediate colour cannot be sexed. The proportion of birds which can be sexed is increased by using the two criteria in conjunction.

Catching Meadow Pipits with a Tape Recorder. B. J. Speck. 1970. *The Ring*, 64-65:63-5.

Since 1966, Dutch banders have decoyed Meadow Pipits to clapnets by playing taped songs of the species. The success of the method is well illustrated by the numbers of Meadow Pipits banded in Holland.

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|-----------|------|
| 1911-1965 | 5454 |
| 1966 | 2057 |
| 1967 | 4163 |
| 1968 | 3379 |
| 1969 | 6355 |

Trapping Ducks with a Floating Trapnet. F. J. Koning. *The Ring*, 64-65:65-6.

A modified clapnet, designed to float in Dutch canal-, is described and illustrated. It is ineffective in strong wind or in running water. In seven years some 1,200 young Tufted Ducks have been trapped.

A New Technique for Capturing White-throated Swifts. Charles T. Collins. 1971. *Western Bird Bander*, 46:6-7.

White-throated Swifts *Aeronautes saxatalis* roosting on cliffs were caught in a special mist net held in a 'U' shaped frame, 3 feet high and 4 feet wide. The frame was elevated on six or seven net poles each about 4 feet long. The frame is made of 1/2 inch diameter steel rod, and can be operated by one person. The swifts rapidly became trap shy.

MISCELLANEOUS

Hawk-banding on the Northern Shore of Lake Erie. Marshall Field. 1970. *Ontario Bird Banding*: 6:52-69.

The development of a hawk banding station on a migration route in Ontario, Canada in 1969 is detailed. Initial disappointments and problems, due to lack of experience, are noted, and the potential of the area is assessed. Raptors banded were 202 in 1969 and 344 in 1970-71. Details of seven recoveries are tabulated.