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EBBA NUS



A Friendly Report to Members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association

July, 1940

Let Us Band Together

Vol. 3, No. 4

PLANS FOR LOCAL MEETINGS

According to recent ballots received from members, it is thought that local meetings of banders should be encouraged, especially when they live within a short distance of each other. Mr. Frank B. Foster, one of our former presidents, now living in Phoenixville, Pa., was a strong advocate of such a policy in the early days of the Association. At that time he was very successful in bringing together such groups in the Philadelphia region. There seems to be no reason why such meetings cannot be revived and continued.

In furtherance of such a move, we are glad to announce that Miss Lisa von-Borowsky of Brooksville, Fla. is inviting all Florida members to visit the Chinsegut Migratory Bird Refuge, a part of the Federal chain of such wild life havens and where Miss von Borowsky is the government's Supervisor.

William O. Astle, of Flushing, N.Y. has suggested that a meeting of the banders on Long Island and the New York City area be held this Fall. Plans for this gathering are very tentative as yet. No date has been set but it has been expressed that such a gathering be more or less a "get-acquainted" affair with the accent on a social "confab", where banders can trade experiences and tell each other about the birds "that just got away". It will be probably preceded by a dutch-treat dinner in small groups.

The above plans follow along the lines suggested by Proposal No. 3 on the ballots. It is felt certain that a meeting can be arranged in the Philadelphia area along such informal lines. EBBA would also like to hear that groups in such localities as Sweet Briar, Va., Athens, Ga., in New Jersey, northern New York State and Canada are holding occasional conferences. Much good can be accomplished by banders visiting each other and discussing their activities.

Any member making an extensive auto trip this summer should not fail to visit any bird bander's station along the route. Such visits will be welcome everywhere.

LAST MINUTE MAIL

Dr. O. A. Stevens of Fargo, N.D., secretary of the Inland B.B.A., takes exception to a remark about the banding of fledglings, appearing in the June NUS. It is felt that we are all in complete accord with Dr. Stevens. The banding of fledgling of certain species not readily trapped is highly important. However, with certain qualifications, reiterate that "the promiscuous banding of fledglings without some definite aim or plan is useless and a waste of bands".

R. O. Bender of Ridley Park, Pa. submits data on 87 banded Blue Jays. The records include 2 recoveries and 1 return. Thank you, Bander Bender.

NEWS OF THE BIRD BANDERS

Thomas P. McElroy, Jr. of Easton, Pa. plans some active banding work at a Boy Scout Camp this summer where he is an official. Around the evening camp fires, he expects to relate the purpose of banding to the scouts and stress the importance of properly reporting any bands they find on dead birds. He will ask them to be on the lookout for such birds along the highways.

Dr. Dayton Stoner and Mrs. Stoner of Albany, N.Y. are continuing their work with Bank Swallows. During $6\frac{1}{2}$ days around Oneida Lake in May, they captured 295 individuals, 22 of which were returns.

Horace Groskin of Ardmore, Pa. had an interesting banding article, illustrated with photographs, published in the magazine section of The Philadelphia Inquirer of Sunday, June 9th.

It is understood that Mrs. Marie V. Beals of Elmhurst, N.Y. has accepted a position in the library of the National Association of Audubon Societies of New York.

Early this month, Dr. H. B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. drove to Cleveland, visiting a number of banding stations and bird students along the way. According to frequent reports, it is obvious that he is not forgetting to mention our organization wherever he goes. So far we have enrolled three new members as a result of his trip.

Miss Lisa von Borowsky of Brooksville, Fla., states that she plans to do considerable traveling this summer along the coast. She hopes to do some colony banding as well as work at her own station, Chinsegut-Hill Sanctuary.

Dr. C. B. Worth of Princeton, N.J., not satisfied with recent additional family responsibilities, has taken a parental interest in a young Brown Thrasher and four young Screech Owls, assisted by Mrs. Screech Owl. Needless to remark, Mrs. Owl doesn't think much of the idea.

Howard H. Krug of Chesley, Ont., is interested in trapping Grackles. It is hoped that the trap described in last month's issue will help him. Your secretary would be interested in receiving, after a fair trial, a report of the results obtained from any bander who has made one of the traps described in EBBA NUS. One "unsolicited testimonial" is as follows:

"Never having used this type of trap before, three were set on an open lawn, baited with white bread soaked in water. Traps were set all day Saturdays and Sundays, an hour or so in the mornings before leaving for the office and an hour or two in the evenings. They were turned on the side during the day and left baited. Result: 60 birds in 30 days as follows: 33 Purple Grackles, 7 Song Sparrows, 6 Catbirds, 4 Brown Thrashers, 3 Blue Jays, 2 Red Wing Blackbirds, 2 Cowbirds, 1 Starling, 1 Robin and 1 Chipping Sparrow. Besides these, 16 birds were caught as repeats and 3 were taken as returns. 4 or 5 escaped during the first few days because a cloth wasn't used when taking birds out of the trap." In the light of this report and after re-reading our first paragraph describing this trap, please pardon us for feeling much as the cat might feel after polishing off the parrott,---sort of satisfied.

Rev. Edward Stoehr of Washington, D. C., after a short vacation in New York, returned home with the intentions of showing Eastern some real banding activity this summer.

SOKRI HAWK TRAP
By Geo. Dock, Jr.

Trap Closed

This is an automatic trap based on the principle of a net that can be thrown quickly over a hawk. It can be easily carried around in a car to a wide variety of locations and is quickly and easily set. When set it should be watched from a distance.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

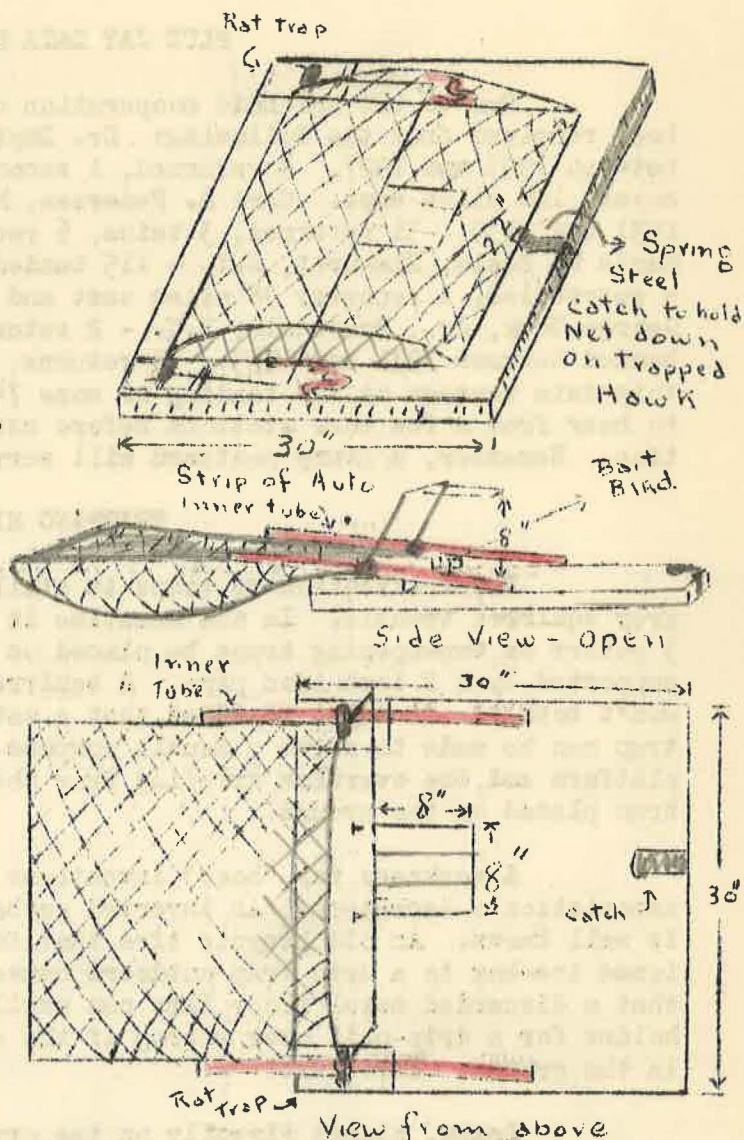
- A heavy board 30 inches square.
- 2 guillotine rat traps.
- A frame, 22" square, of #6 Galv. wire.
- 24" square of 1" chicken wire.
- A 2 ft. strip of light wood or stiff aluminum.
- 2 strips of heavy galv. sheeting $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and 12" long.
- Bessemer iron rod 3 ft. long by $\frac{3}{32}$ " diameter.
- 2 or 3 ft. very stiff light wire size 12 or smaller.
- Strips from inner tube from auto or a bicycle tire.
- Spring steel strip 8" long, for catch.

HOW TO MAKE IT:

Take the rat traps and solder a strip of heavy galv. sheeting, 8" x $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the short trip which is ordinarily used to bait and set the trap. To make this stiff, reinforce by a parallel rod of Bessemer iron. Be sure the extension goes below the guillotine or it will prevent you from setting the trap at all. Next bolt the 2 rat traps to the 30" base. The inner sides of the 2 guillotines should be just over 22 inches apart so that the frame of heavy wire can be soldered and bound to the sides. When this frame is fastened, you can then experiment with the chicken wire netting so that it bulges in the middle but will come down tight around all edges. A bulge of 8" in the middle is plenty. Take the 2 ft. aluminum strip or piece of wood and attach it firmly to the tips of the extended trips of the rat traps. This serves two purposes. It makes sure both rat traps spring together and forms a base on which to fasten the guard which the hawk usually strikes. The strips of inner tube are fastened at one end to the base and the other end to the side of the net covered frame. This elastic makes the trap spring much faster and puts more tension on the rat traps, preventing the traps from springing from the weight of the wire guard frame and the cross strip. This guard is made from No.12 wire in the shape of a small frame and attached to the cross strip in such a way that it will be parallel to the base of the trap when it is set. The spring steel catch holds the net down on the trapped bird.

The only bait that has been found to work is a live english sparrow that is so tethered that it can flap its wings and move about a little. This can be arranged by taping the bird's feet and tethering. In most cases the hawk never reaches or harms the sparrow as he is caught before he reaches it. Once caught the hawk thinks of other things.

Be sure to wear gloves when banding and band the hawk while it is still in the trap. For additional directions, write George Dock, Jr., Scarsdale, N. Y.



BLUE JAY DATA RECEIVED

Due to the splendid cooperation of the members, Blue Jay data has been received from the following: Dr. Dayton Stoner, Albany, N.Y., 57 banded between 1923 and 1927. 4 returned, 1 recovery, 475 miles south, and one recovery 110 miles east. Carl A. Pedersen, Montvale, N.J. - 340 banded between 1931 and 1939. 31 returned, 3 twice, 6 recoveries, 2 in the Carolinas. Mrs. Marie V. Beals, Elmhurst, N.Y. - 115 banded between 1930 and 1939. 3 returned, 5 recoveries, 1 recovery 98 miles east and 1 recovery 135 miles northeast. George Dock, Jr., Scarsdale, N.Y. - 2 returns. G. Gill, Huntington, N.Y. - 237 banded between 1931 and 1939. 39 returns, 1 recovery 175 miles west. While this data touches on the banding of some 740 banded Blue Jays, we would like to hear from a few more stations before assembling the material for publication. Remember, a penny postcard will serve.

TRAPPING HINTS

Electrification of traps is still being experimented with to combat grey squirrel trouble. In the meantime it is suggested that a group of 2 or 3 potter or top-opening traps be placed on a platform 3 feet from the ground and supported by a 2 inch iron pipe. A squirrel can leap this high but usually won't bother. It might be added that a water pail raised above the top-most trap can be made to serve a double purpose by dripping into the trap on the platform and the overflow dripping from the water pan, in the top trap, to a trap placed on the ground.

A weakness for "boob" inventions has always been a failing of your association's secretary. An inverted garbage-can cover that makes a bird-bath is well known. An old bicycle tire that formed a hose connecting an old fashioned ice-box to a drip trap outdoors caused a smile, but now it is suggested that a discarded metal floor lamp can easily be converted into an attractive holder for a drip-pail over a trap if the metal base is imbedded with concrete in the ground. What next?

Traps, placed directly on the ground, should be moved occasionally so that the floor of the trap won't become rancid. While on this subject, it should be remarked that Dr. Wood recently informed us that his House Trap described in our May issue, wasn't fastened to the ground as we suggested, but steadied by guy ropes on each side. These could be unfastened, the entire trap tipped over on one side and the ground beneath thoroughly cleaned occasionally. Sounds like a very sound idea and we beg the Doctor's pardon.

George Dock of Scarsdale, N. Y., writes that while using his hawk trap, described in this issue, "I found that a cat was occasionally killing my bait birds so I put a cat trap nearby. Later I discovered a very fine skunk caught in it." Mr. Dock made an orderly retreat to his home base without serious loss of time or dignity. He writes, "Skunks kill a good many pheasants up here so I am not interested in letting him go alive. He is still there and still alive for I can't go near him to release the lock. What will I do?" Any member has our permission to telegraph him instructions, but, please, not collect. After six weeks in attempting to trap a pair of sharp shins, such suffering knows some sufficiency!

Robert Arbib, Jr. and Christopher McKeever made a trip recently to Orient Point, L.I., N.Y., to check on the Osprey and tern colony situations.