

# EBBA NUS

A Friendly Report to Members of the  
Eastern Bird Banding Association



March, 1941

"Let Us Band Together"

Vol. 4, No. 3

President: Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.  
Treasurer: George Dock, Jr., 119 Brite Avenue, Scarsdale, New York  
Sec. & Ed: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L.I., N.Y.

## BE SURE TO RETURN THE ATTACHED BALLOT

On the last page of this issue of EBBA NUS you will find a ballot and questionnaire. Please answer all the questions completely and return to the secretary at the address given above. It is not necessary for you to sign your name to this sheet as it already appears on the reverse side. Remember, this association is yours and every member has an equal share in developing it successfully. By helping us to help others, you'll find that you will also help yourself to become a better bander and get more fun out of your hobby.

The election of officers and the locality of the annual meeting are two matters on which your opinion is eagerly sought. We would especially welcome comments and suggestions from many of our recent members. For instance, most of the experienced banders are familiar with a Brenckle Trap, yet, there are some recent banders who would like to see a plan and instruction for building this very successful equipment. Dr. Brenckle introduced this trap through "Bird Banding Notes" ten years ago and many of us have overlooked the fact that the drawing and directions are not available to many of us who have taken up banding since that date. It is now planned to include a description of such a trap in an early edition of the NUS.

## LONG ISLAND BANDERS TO MEET THIS MONTH

Through the good offices of our member, Mr. Jesse V. Miller, the Manhasset Junior-Senior High School authorities have offered the use of their Domestic Science room for an informal regional meeting of the Long Island Bird Banders on Saturday, March 22nd, at 2:30 P.M. Invitations have been sent out for all member-banders in this area to meet at this school, located on Memorial Place, Manhasset, L.I., N.Y. Banding traps being used by the Manhasset H. S. Junior Banding Club will be on display and members will have an opportunity to talk with these pioneers and their leader in the Junior movement. The young ladies of the club will serve refreshments at the close of the conference.

## WINTER WARBLER BANDING IN N.J.

"Fine powdered bread crumbs and finely chipped suet are getting us more winter Myrtle Warblers than ever before. The birds, too, are more steady and dependable than heretofore. And - we've had more repeats than in our whole previous experience - catching two to six a week. On Feb. 22nd banded 7. Caught one with a strange band on Feb. 21st.

"Three Western Bird Banding Ass'n. small traps and the Lurvey single and double cell get most of our winter Myrtles."

Christabel E. and Beecher S. Bowdish, Demarest, N. J.



## NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

An interview with an old professional duck hunter reveals that since 1920 he had shot 1,592 ducks on the Susquehanna River and not a single one wore a band. In fifty years he has shot 350 Canada Geese and one wore a band placed by Jack Miner in Canada. This bird was banded in 1929 and shot in 1930.

Have you renewed your State banding permit? Some states require an annual renewal to be legal. Pennsylvania is one such state and the renewal can be obtained from Leo A. Luttringer, Jr., State Game Commission, Harrisburg, Penna.

If Rev. Edward Stoehr of Washington, D. C. can band 600 more birds by June, then he will have placed bands on 5,000 birds in a little over 3 years. This total consists of about 105 species, all of which looks like some sort of a record. So far this fiscal year this station has banded about 1,400 birds with the 12 traps. Last month he caught a Screech Owl in a Potter trap, the second one to be so caught.

B. S. Bowdish of Demarest, N. J., reports banding a Towhee and a Catbird on November 16, 1940. The Catbird disappeared but the Towhee was around for some time and was a frequent repeater. Another Towhee, taken from a cat and later hopping about and eating, was brought to his station on February 6. It died that night, doubtless from injuries inflicted by the feline. A Hermit Thrush banded November 5 last, repeated up to November 23 but was not again seen until January 7. Since that date it has been repeating in the traps often. Raisins are reported as the favorite artificial diet.

Richard Gerstell in charge of game farms and banding of the Pennsylvania State Game Commission, reports that no recent summary of data on the banding of game birds has been made. A report of 1938 said that recoveries of shot birds proved pheasants were common recoveries up to 35 and 40 miles from the place of banding. From September 1936 to January 1938, 21,000 pheasants were released of which 17,850 were banded. Returns total 8.47 per cent. 29,000 banded quail resulted in 0.54% returns. Mr. Gerstell reports that Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and Delaware band game birds, using their own bands and reports should be sent to the state involved. If any member is interested in trapping gallinaceous birds a design for such a trap can be furnished upon request.

## ON THE EDUCATIONAL FRONT

"The Delaware County Advocate" for February, a picture magazine published in Chester, Pa., carried a two-page illustrated article on banding and asking folks to report birds found wearing a band. Dr. Worth is the featured member in the pictures.

"Manhasset Life" of Jan. 16th, a picture newspaper published on Long Island, N. Y., carries a full page of pictures of the Manhasset High School's Junior Bird Banding Club. This splendid lay-out shows a fine collection of traps "in location" and the enthusiastic group of members gathered around their leader, Jesse V. Miller.

"Turtlox News" for January, a magazine sent to 30,000 science teachers in the schools throughout America carries a two-page article on banding with a sketch of some bands. This educational article is a joint contribution of the Inland Bird Banding Association and our Association by their respective secretaries.

A limited quantity of back numbers of EBBA NUS are available. Any member who desires to complete his file, may obtain copies by addressing the secretary and enclosing 5¢ in stamps per copy to cover cost of mailing.



WARBLER BANDING IN WASHINGTON

Most of our warblers are caught less than 50 feet from the building, off the lawn and down a 15 foot embankment in a small clump of thinned-out oak saplings. Situated on a hill, the whole vicinity is surrounded by pine and oak woods. In one part there was an orchard of 30 trees but since the city has cut a road through, there are only three fruit trees left. Yet, the warblers are as thick as ever hereabouts among some grape vines, cedar trees and a small section of hedge.

Down below the hill, near a fine pine woods with plenty of underbrush beneath the trees is another good set, although a nearby road carries considerable traffic. Another good place is back in the deep woods where oven birds, chats, black-throated blues are thick. But the major point in our warbler success is the fact that we are located in the angle of a huge V of woods and vegetation that cuts into the northeast part of Washington for about 2 miles. On both sides of this V, are residential sections and it seems that the birds are wedged into our woods, especially in the Fall. In the Spring it is a green pasture on which to alight after coming over the city from the south.

This is a general outline of our surroundings. Now I'll try to give you an idea of number taken in the different traps in 1940.

One tunnel trap took 45 warblers of 12 species near the top of a wooded hill. Tall oaks, saplings, some pines and huckleberry bushes accounting for the vegetation. A tunnel trap is a squared rectangular trap 8 or 9 inches tall that has no openings but a tunnel dug under 1 side in the shape of an hour-glass, thus the entrance is fan shape as is also the inner part of an entrance. A 3 or 4 inch strip of wire is laid across the tunnel on the inside so that the birds walk over it in their attempt to flee.

A sparrow trap took 35 warblers of 15 species at the edge of the woods where the young trees were thick at the base of a hill near a clearing.

In the remains of the orchard at the edge of the woods, 57 warblers of 18 species were taken in a 6-cell brenckle trap, (2 ground and 4 top openings).

The best of all traps was a 10-cell one (mostly ground openings) set along the base of an embankment in among small trees and a few shrubs, over-shadowed by giant oaks. Here 88 warblers were caught of 15 species. Another good set was a 5 ft. by 2 ft. and a foot high rectangular tunnel trap placed at the edge of the woods in thick underbrush. This took 50 of 12 species. This mentions five of the traps and their situations while we had a total of twelve traps in similar places. Below is the result for the different types of openings in our many compartment traps:

Traps	Spring '40	Fall '40	Totals
Creeper Trap	2	1	3
Cohasset	2	-	2
House Trap	6	22	28
3 Tunnel Traps	73	49	122
3 Sparrow Traps	33	77	110
Chardonneret cells	14	40	54
Potter cells	40	32	72
Summary:	170	221	391

These 391 warblers represent individuals of 29 species with Maryland Yellow Throat and Ovenbird heading the list.

In conclusion, here are the factors as far as I can discover. Firstly, we are well situated, we are on a hill with no running water within a quarter of a mile; and, secondly, the use of many compartment traps, some with 10 cells; and, thirdly, large and constantly-in-motion water pans that generally have some bright object in them to attract the bird's eye (we use pieces of mirrors and old but shiny hub caps from cars in the larger traps); fourthly, and this is of importance, set your traps about 35 or 50 ft. in from the edge of the woods, i.e. where the brush along an open field comes in contact with large trees or where the brush melts into tall oaks. Our woods are not continuous but broken with roads or clearings of an acre or more.

Rev. Edward Stoehr, Washington, D. C.



## TREE SPARROWS

George Dock, Jr. of Scarsdale, N. Y. writes that Tree Sparrows with bands 40-74421, 22 and 23, all banded between Jan. 1st and 8th, 1940 were re-trapped at the same station within the week of Jan. 25 - Feb. 1, 1941. Considering that he only banded 7 of this species during the first week of January, 1940, getting 3 of them back from their far-off summer range speaks well of their toughness, he believes.

B. S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. reports that Tree Sparrow banded Feb. 15, 1933 was back again in the traps at the same station on Jan. 26, 1941. Notice the similarity of dates of these two reports. Mr. Bowdish writes that this 1933 Tree Sparrow has appeared in his traps at least once each winter since banding except in 1940.

Lawrence Howe of Belmont, N. Y. reports the return of one of these species on Jan. 13, 1941 banded the preceding year and mentions that he has several other Tree Sparrow returns.

At "Ye Editor's" station at Huntington, L.I., N.Y., 2 Tree Sparrows were noticed around the free feeders on Feb. 4th for the first time this winter. Regret that they disappeared without being banded, but of 25 previously banded 6 have returned.

## MORE ABOUT BIRD "EATS"

Wow! Who started all this about the high cost of bird "eats" anyway? However, we are very glad to have the comments on this subject from the members at this time, as the latter part of the winter is always the hardest on the wintering bird population.

Hobart Van Deusen of Upper Montclair, N. J. writes, "The A & P stores here in Montclair (at least) sell a 25 lb. bag of "Daily Egg Scratch Feed" for about 50¢; it contains cracked yellow corn, wheat, barley, milo, maize, kaffir corn, buckwheat and oats - to which I add sunflower seed and millet." Sounds good.

Richard Gerstell, mentioned elsewhere, says that prepared chick feeds are too expensive for banders. He suggests going to any grist mill and getting the screenings and the sweepings. Farmers take their seed to the mill to have the weed seeds sifted out and the mills are anxious to get rid of this excess and will sell for practically nothing. He bought 100 lbs. of screenings from soy beans for 50¢. Mr. Gerstell says these weed seeds are just what the birds are accustomed to eat and not cracked corn or wheat.

Whereupon the good Dr. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. jumps into the discussion with both feet and states he'd be switched if he can find a grist mill within fifty miles of his place. He also very wisely warns members to roast all such seed in an oven to about 200 degrees for at least 15 minutes to kill the germ, or else... Dr. Wood continues, "Last year I used rape seed,--never could notice that any bird ate any, but did I notice how bloomin' busy I was pulling the bloomin' stuff out of the lawn....." Sorry, but we must gently draw a veil over his further remarks... while he logically arrives at a very devastating and witty conclusion, no matter how trying a situation may be, EBBA must remember that the medical profession still has its code of ethics.

These are just a few sample comments. What with seeds, feeds, weeds and wit, "Ye Editor" feels a trifle seedy himself; however, to the birds, seed and grit are the things.



(Please fill out this questionnaire, detach and mail to the secretary, TODAY.)  
The secretary's address appears on the front page of this issue.

ANNUAL ELECTION

Please write in the name of a member for each of the following offices:

President:.....Vice President:.....  
Treasurer:.....Secretary:.....  
Editor of NUS:.....

ANNUAL MEETING

Where would you like this meeting held? .....  
When? ..... If held in Washington, D.C., could you attend?.....  
(Month)  
Would you rather have it on a Saturday?.....If not when?.....  
Do you plan to offer a paper at the next annual meeting?.....Do you plan to  
exhibit traps, photographs or other equipment?.....  
Would you like a field trip arranged to nearby stations?.....  
Other suggestions for annual meeting:.....  
.....

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Do you know of any bander in our area, not a member of our group?.....  
If so, please give his name and address: .....  
.....  
How many birds did you band between July 1, 1939 and July 1, 1940?.....  
How many traps do you operate?.....What type do you consider best?.....  
Do you band shore birds?.....Where.....Exclusively?.....  
Are you specializing in any study?.....  
How can EBBA NUS best help you?.....  
Has the NUS helped you in the past year?.....  
Can you suggest any way whereby more band recoveries would be reported?.....  
If so, how?.....  
.....

(Use reverse side if more room is needed)

NOTE: It is regretted that due to an editorial error in our previous issue it was stated that this questionnaire would appear in February instead of March as was intended.

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<p>"EBBA NUS"          Eastern Bird Banding          Association</p>
<p>Geoffrey Gill, Sec'y.          Overlook Dr., Huntington          Long Island, New York</p>



Sec. 562 P. L. & R



Dr. Dayton Stone

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New York State Museum

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Albany

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New York

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