

EBBA NUS

A FRIENDLY REPORT ISSUED MONTHLY TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

Members In

Florida, Georgia, South Carolina,
North Carolina, Virginia, Mary-
land, Delaware, District of Colum-
bia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey,
New York, and other States and
in Canada.

June, 1941

Let Us Band Together

Vol. 4, No. 6

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Secretary: Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania
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TREASURY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940-41

The officers of the Association elected on February 22, 1940 were entrusted by the outgoing officers with a credit balance of \$163.14. As of May 15, 1941, the Association had a credit balance of \$180.72, which has been turned over to the incoming officers for 1941.

During the intervening fifteen months, net receipts of the Association amounted to \$421.90. Such receipts were in the form of \$424.50 of dues received from members, less bank deposit, withdrawal and collection charges amounting to \$2.60.

For the same fifteen month period, expenditures (represented by subscriptions to "Bird Banding" from full and sustaining members, by monthly publication costs of "Ebba Nus" for all members and by postage, stationery and miscellaneous costs) aggregated \$404.32.

The initial credit balance of \$163.14, plus the \$421.90 of net receipts, represents total credits of \$585.04. Deducting the \$404.32 of expenditures incurred during the fifteen months, leaves the Association with the aforesaid net balance of \$180.72 as of May 15th, 1941.

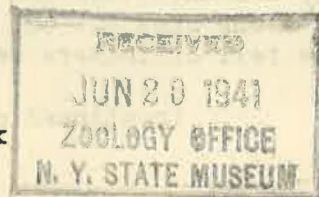
The fact that the Association has successfully weathered the past year of heavier expenditure, incident to monthly publication of the "Nus", is due to the officers' foresight a year ago in urging an increase of 50 cents in the annual dues.

Improvement in our financial status is necessary.

It must come through an increase in number of members, rather than further raising the dues at a time when every penny counts for everyone. Many people who are not banders find "Bird Banding" and "Ebba Nus" well worth their slight cost.

Present members who wish to see this Association develop in activity and value can assure that result in no more effective way than by trying themselves, to secure new members among local amateur and professional ornithologists now absent from our ranks.

119 Brite Avenue,
Scarsdale, New York



Respectfully submitted, May 16th, 1941

George Dock, Jr.

REPORT OF EBBA ACTIVITIES FOR 1940-41

At this time it would seem fitting that a brief resume of the activities of the Association, covering the period from February, 1940 to May, 1941, be given to supplement the treasurer's report and give the members an idea of what has been done and what we are trying to do.

Through the means of a ballot sent out to our membership in May, 1940, it was learned that there was a widespread desire for local and regional meetings. While previously such gatherings had been discussed, we are now happy to state that such meetings were held in four areas through the splendid cooperation of several of our members.

Mrs. Marie Dumont of Pequannock, N.J. held the first regional meeting at her residence on Sunday, September 22nd, 1940 for the New Jersey banders.

On September 27th, a regional meeting for the Florida members was called by Miss Lisa von Borowsky at the Chinsegut-Hill Sanctuary at Brookville, Florida.

Members of Eastern Pennsylvania held a regional meeting on October 24th at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia under the sponsorship of Horace Groskin of Ardmore, Pa.

Jesse V. Miller of New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y. was host to a fourth regional meeting for the banders of Long Island and Southern New York at the Manhasset Junior-Senior High School on March 22nd, 1941.

Much interest was aroused at all these meetings. It is Ebba's aim to have similar meetings from time to time and promote such gatherings in other areas at every opportunity.

In the interest of encouraging wider cooperation, Ebba has published and distributed 13 issues of "Ebba Nus" during this same 15 months. This news-letter, now placed upon a monthly basis, contained 69 pages. Its contents have described and illustrated 9 pieces of equipment which members have found helpful in banding a great variety of birds, as well as information pertaining to bait, trap locations and general banding assistance. 2,481 copies have been mailed to members and prospective members in our area.

Our membership roll in February, 1940 listed 190 members. However, it was disclosed that many members were being carried for a period of from one to two years and had never paid their dues. Such banders were requested twice officially, and in many cases unofficially by neighboring members, to bring their dues up-to-date. After a reasonable time, those of our membership who failed to heed the warnings were dropped. As was expected, this action did cause a few to rejoin our ranks. Five or six members resigned and a further loss was caused by deaths among our members, lowering our membership to 103. To counter-balance this loss, officers and councillors in many of the states wrote letters by the score to non-member banders in our area. These letters resulted in a gratifying influx of new members which to an extent offset the downward trend, common to all such organizations in these perilous times. Our membership is now 131. No large drive for members was undertaken by mail from a central office during this time, due to the small margin of safety in our treasury. However, the number of letters sent out by the officers both in inter-membership communication and to prospective members was far from small. Your secretary alone sent out 623 letters and post-cards. Reports from councillors in the file tell of letters sent to every bander

(continued on last page)

NEWS OF THE BIRD BANDERS

It has been said that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Proof of the need and the results to be obtained by giving talks on bird banding to local groups near a banding station was demonstrated recently in one area from which we have just received a report. A 20 minute talk was delivered to a large group of school students on April 9th. By the first week in May, a teacher had reported 3 recoveries brought in by the students. In the past several years, school students have reported 11 recoveries in this area, due no doubt, to occasional short talks on banding, given to them from time to time.

Following the Kodachrome camera demonstration held before the Long Island regional meeting this Spring, we are happy to hear that LeRoy Wilcox has purchased one of these cameras and the lantern slide projector. It is hoped that the Association will be able to procure some duplicates for the proposed library, of the splendid shots of shore bird banding and his work with ospreys, which we feel sure Mr. Wilcox will be able to get. Mr. Wilcox is experimenting with several methods of trapping the adult ospreys at their nests which it is hoped can be discussed in a forthcoming issue. It has been learned that he succeeded in catching a female with a long piece of string. A running noose was placed around the nest and a cord carried from this loop some distance to a parked car. As the bird settled on the nest the loop was given a tremendous "yank" and he succeeded in catching the osprey around one leg. Mrs. Fish Hawk was somewhat ruffled by the operation, but after release she flew to a stake out in the water, straightened her feathers and then came back to the nest in a very short time and calmly went on with her housekeeping duties.

Just to show you that you should never give up hope, "Ye Editor" banded an adult Catbird on May 31st, 1933. This bird never repeated and has never returned and one might reasonably suppose that it had "come to the end of the road" by this time. On May 11th, 1941, this bird was taken twice in the traps and is now the oldest of 1300 catbirds we have any record of at this station. 9 years old as we figure it. Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. has similar records.

Among the banders that are taking to the road this summer is that intrepid traveler, Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. Dr. Wood is probably shaking hands and comparing notes with banders in Ohio by the time you receive this issue and during the latter part of August he hopes to drop in on some of the banding stations in New England. Miss Lisa von Borowsky of Brooksville, Fla. leaves her home station this month for a long tour, first going west and making a long swing up through the states to reach New York in the early Fall.

Several stations report good banding this year, being far ahead of their totals last year. George Dock, Jr. of Scarsdale, N.Y. reports 500 new birds banded up until the middle of May. Dr. Wood mentions 200 in the same period which is excellent considering his small "lay-out" in the bustling capital of Pennsylvania, and at the station in Huntington, L.I., N.Y. slightly more than 200 new birds have been banded and 50 returns have already been recorded, which is above the average.

Richard Fischer of Flushing, L.I., N.Y. trapped a male Purple Grackle bearing band No. 38-322815. The bird was captured on May 12th. Was it your banded bird?

The first bird banded by Rev. Edward Stoehr of Washington, D.C. was a nut-hatch, banded over 3 years ago. In April this year the bird was back at the station and nesting within ten feet of one of the school buildings. His new capture total for the month of March this year was 200 plus.

TRAPPING TIPS

About this time of the year, occasionally a trapped bird will lay an egg in a trap. Attempts of banders to place this egg in a nest of the same species containing eggs usually produce negative results. First, because the stage of development of the eggs already in the nest is often more advanced than the fresh egg, and secondly, because the owner of the nest seems able to recognize her own eggs and tosses out the strange egg. Ebba has received reports of several such experiments which confirm the above conclusions, but such reports do not rule out the chance that all such experiments will fail.

Running the risk of the charge of repetition Ebba again reminds members to keep water-drip traps active in these periodic dry spells we are having this year. In the words of Rev. Stoehr of Washington, D.C., "keep your bird baths shining". Cleanliness is imperative and to help make them shine a piece of old mirror in the bottom will help.

Maybe a trifle late for the early nesting robins but still in time for the second nesting is the thought that a nice little heap of mud is first class bait for Robins. Robins seem to enter the trip-step type of trap more often than the top-opening variety.

Right now is the time to visit barns and such buildings to band young Barn Swallows. If approached in a friendly manner most farmers will allow you to go into their barns and will often let you use their step-ladder.

Ebba admires the suggestion put forward by a member that neighboring stations up to 30 miles let each other know the numbers of their current band numbers on sizes placed on birds that may be common to both localities, such as grackles for instance. This is not so difficult as at first appears. For a series of a hundred bands just place the first and last number such as on size No. 3, I have 41-320, 401 to 500. This information on a postal will often times facilitate the inter-change of information when a strange banded bird is taken in your trap and relieves the strain on the services of the Biological Survey. Why not drop your neighboring bander a postal with this information this evening.

Raymond T. Fuller of Winterton, N.Y. writes: "I, for one, would highly appreciate some hints in Ebba Nus on how to attach or otherwise manipulate the smaller celluloid colored bands. I just can't seem to get efficient and practical in putting them on". Will some of our members who have had experience with these celluloid bands send us a paragraph or two. In the case of "Ye Editor", who placed about 150 combinations of these colored bands on Catbirds, his experience was that a bander needed at least four hands, or in other words an assistant was necessary in all such operations. It was also found that the bands stayed in their proper position on these birds for two years and sometimes three years. After two years the celluloid has a tendency to expand and where two bands are used on one leg of a bird one band slips over the other destroying the usefulness of the color combination for purposes of sight records.

Miss Lisa von Borowsky of Brooksville, Fla. reports capturing vultures in traps baited for skunks and opossums. Miss von Borowsky is capturing these animals alive and unharmed for zoos. However, if there is any member who wishes to work with these "critters" use the same bait used for skunks or opossums.

An article entitled "Chimney Swift - Mystery Flying Machine" by Dr. C. Brooke Worth of Swarthmore, Pa. is scheduled for a future issue of "Fauna", a natural history magazine published by the Zoological Society of Philadelphia.

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF EBBA FOR 1940-41 (Continued)

in their state, often numbering up to 50. Inasmuch as each officer and councillor assumed the postage cost, no small item in aggregate, through their generous assistance much was saved for the treasury.

Such a report would not be complete without a word as to the publicity placed by the members in both newspapers and magazines. This work has been accomplished through the efforts of individuals as opportunities presented themselves and for the period under discussion amounts to a very satisfactory total. We doubt whether our files are complete, however we have copies of 22 articles appearing in such mediums during this time and have also reports of at least 10 talks or lectures given since February, 1940.

To sum up the activities for the period, it can be modestly stated that the cooperation of the membership was never better, that our membership is now all in good standing and that we can look forward to better banding with more fun and interest for us all in our chosen hobby.

LAST MINUTE MAIL

Here's a letter that contains a good banding tip, timely, too. The member suggests that if you carry an old fashion key-ring in your pocket, it is a good thought to carry one or two extra bands on it of the larger sizes, suitable for robins, grackles etc. During June, a bander may come across a young robin, cowbird or grackle hopping along most any place. Why not catch him, band and release the bird where found. The bird is not lost and it is probable that its parents have an eye on him. If it has apparent intentions of heading for trouble, it might be well to shoo the youngster to some nearby thicket or shrubbery. Don't take it home and attempt to satisfy such an appetite; remember, its mother knows best.

Robert K. Ungemah of White Plains, N.Y. sends us a clipping from "The Reporter Dispatch", a newspaper of that area, relating about a banding demonstration of his before some ten Boy Scouts. The reporter scrambles species a trifle, that is, he gets starlings and grackles a trifle mixed, but on the whole it is a fine little human interest story.

Richard B. Fischer of Flushing, N.Y. is up to his neck in college exams right now and is submitting a paper on Bird Banding for one of his examinations.

In the Herald-Tribune Rod and Gun column some Sundays ago, mention was made of a shortage of House Wrens this year. Several days later the subject was again brought up and the editor, Don Stillman, writes that he has received between 40 and 50 letters from lower New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut, Long Island and Pennsylvania about the subject. Only one of the writers of these letters has found wrens normally abundant about his home. The rest were unanimous in the opinion that there is a decided shortage, if not a total absence, of these birds this season. It would be interesting to know if our members have noted any scarcity of this species. At the home of "Ye Editor" the usual number are around the banding station and he has banded twice as many adults this May as he did last year.

A list of members of the three regional Associations is planned for publication in the July number of Bird Banding.

"EBBA NUS"
Eastern Bird Banding
Association

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