

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.

August, 1941

Let Us Band Together

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SOME STARTLING STATISTICS

Our friend and your friend, Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa., being of a medical turn of mind, delved deeply into mathematics this month and sent us the following dish of data. We worked ourselves right up into a foam counting and checking these figures and we believe they are correct. However, if you feel skeptical about any point, give it a double check. Are you ready? All set? Go!

"The race is on. Not a competitive race among NEBBA, EBBA and IBBA, but a drive to teach the unaffiliated banders that cooperative work produced much better results and more scientific investigations. The list of members of the banding associations, published by "Bird-Banding" and our own latest roll-call, shows the membership to be: Northeastern 111, Eastern 139, and Inland 188, totaling 438 cooperating banders. "Bird Banding Notes" of the Fish & Wildlife Service, March, 1941, states there are 1,731 banders and lists the names of those banding over 100 birds the previous year, totalling 398. The membership in the associations should be enlarged from these listed names. These reporting banders, when checked with the members' lists, show membership as follows: Northeastern 20, Eastern 54, Inland 73 and in no banding association 157. Over one half of these banders reporting are unaffiliated; 26 in New England, 24 in 3 states which comprise 67% of EBBA and 42 are in the 4 states which include 53% of IBBA. (Dr. Wood has overlooked the Western Association, but as no membership list is readily available, we offer apologies to Western and carry on.-Ed.)

Members of EBBA have other unaffiliated banders within their midst: 8 in Ontario, 16 in New York, 7 in Pennsylvania, 3 in New Jersey, 3 in Maryland -- and further over the map to the limits of postal delivery. Truly the harvest is great, but the reapers are few. Mr. Lincoln long ago explained the advisability of a bander becoming affiliated with an association and urged such membership. The publications of the associations have become so interesting that four banders have joined two associations; Edward A. Mason in the NEBBA and the EBBA, and Mrs. Francis Sherwin, Dr. William Pepper and Hobart M. VanDeusen in the EBBA and IBBA.

The lists show that NEBBA members are located entirely in New England with one in Penna. The EBBA, in 16 states, including 40 N.Y., 39 Penna., 16 N.J. with tentacles reaching Ohio, Colorado, California and Peru. Inland in 28 states, has 34 in Ill., 24 in Mich., 23 Ohio, 19 Wis., 12 N.D., 9 Minn., 7 Canada, 5 Calif., 6 Texas and on down into Mexico. Some very prominent banding ornithologists are not listed on the rolls. Now is the opportunity for members to give help to the organizations to which they have linked their names."

BUSY AT BEAVER KILL, N. Y.

Richard B. Fischer of Flushing, N. Y. is spending the summer again at Beaver Kill, N.Y. A report of his activities so far, shows that he is rivaling the native beavers. He writes that his total from June 16, 1940 to June 23, 1941 is 1226 individuals of 73 species. Since June 13th, when he went up to Beaver Kill, he has banded 211 birds of 23 species, (up to July 9th). His current list includes 3 young Cooper's Hawks; 4 kinds of Swallows; Chimney Swift; Indigo Bunting; Black-billed Cuckoo and Bobolink, among many others.

So far, he writes, I have captured 3 returns, one being a Swift banded in 1939 which has returned to the same barn in 1940 and 1941. A Barn Swallow banded in one barn last year, returned to the same barn this year and is raising three young. He also speaks of a "swallow raid" which he says he is describing in detail in the next issue of the government's "Bird Banding Notes".

If one swallow did make a summer, Mr. Fischer would have the seasons under control for many years to come. As has been mentioned in previous issues, he is concentrating on swallows. His total to July 9th is as follows: Tree-39; Bank-13; Rough-wing-7; Barn-158; and Cliff-28; a total of 245 birds. Of these two have returned and none have been recovered elsewhere. On July 5th, he located a barn with 80 nests of Cliff Swallows on it and Ebba has an idea Fischer's Cliff Swallow total will rise and rise.

ON THE WATERFRONT

On July 3rd, despite buckets of rain, Leroy Wilcox of Speonk, L.I., N.Y. hung up what Ebba considers a record, by banding 125 young Ospreys in one day. This banding took place on Gardiner's Island, N.Y. On the following day, he banded 28 more on the neighboring Cartwright Island, despite more rain. Incidentally, "Ye Editor" and Chris McKeever of the Linnean Society, both of Huntington, N. Y., waded through the rain on July 4th to watch Wilcox in action and succeeded in banding 165 Herring Gulls and a Spotted Sandpiper, all young, on Cartwright Island. With enough bands and considerable less rain it would be easily possible to band 500 young Herring Gulls on this island, any day early in July. Any one ever planning such a trip should get in touch with Wilcox, who has done a great deal of banding at this place, so that banding efforts would be collated and not upset work already accomplished.

When Wilcox comes along, records go smash. A later report states that on July 11th, he visited a tern colony at Moriches Inlet and in seven hours banded 1,019 Common Terns. "This", he writes, "is the largest number of birds I have banded in one day. I believe this to be the largest colony in New York State, probably numbering about 2,000 adults. I opened 300 bands at home to save time and would have opened 1,000 bands if I had known there were so many young to band. I used the first 300 bands in exactly one hour, or at the rate of five birds per minute. I did not cover the entire island (Reeves Island), so believe I can still band about 500 more."

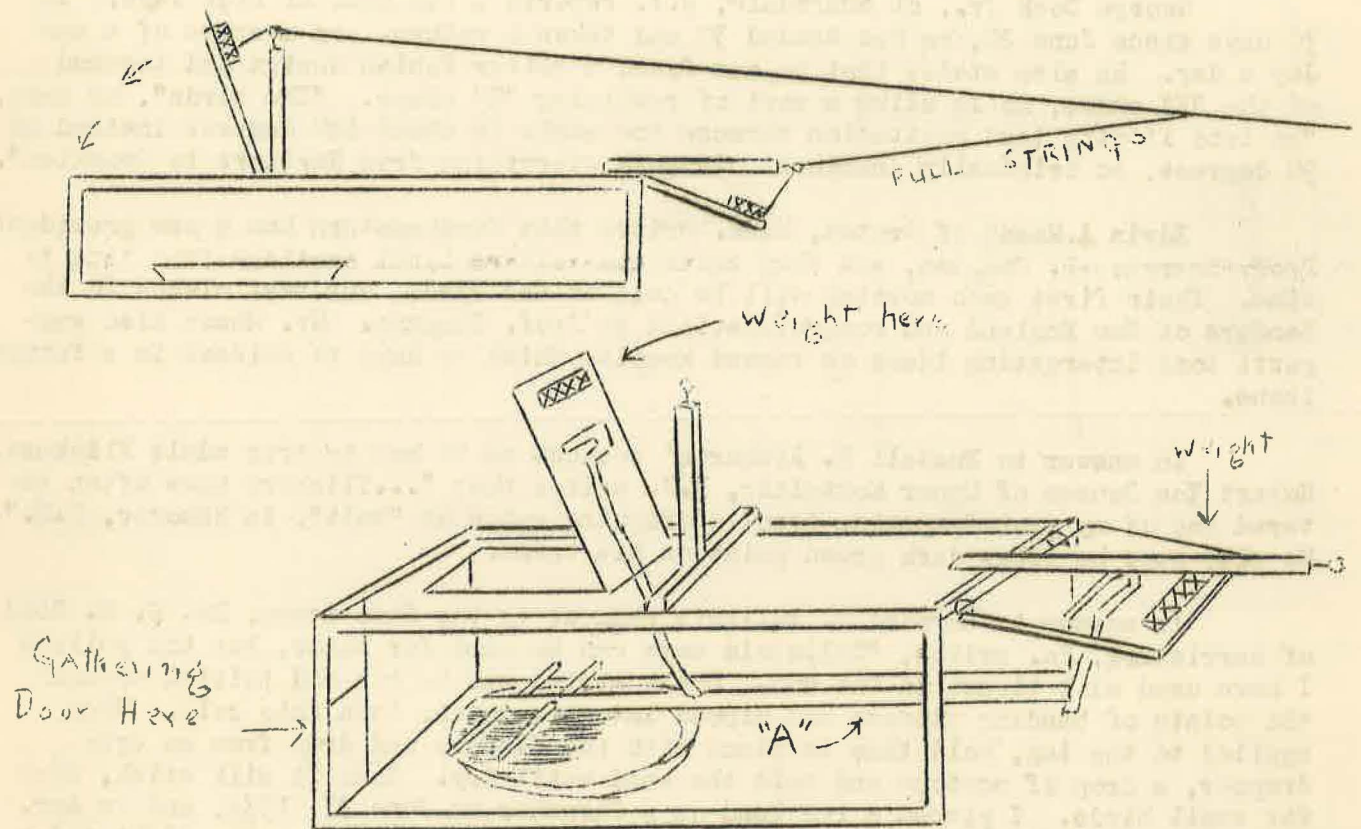
Mr. Wilcox also states that he has photographed and weighed a family of young ospreys each week since they were one day old. He has taken Kodachrome slides of the family each week and states the slides have turned out very well. On July 18th, Jesse V. Miller of New Hyde Park, chairman of our Education Committee, and "Ye Editor" again visited Wilcox and came back full of praise for the work he is doing. To sum up everything in a single phrase, "Ain't Nature Grand!"

THE PEDERSEN COMBINATION PULL STRING

This all-purpose trap is really a combination of a ground entrance type and top-opening type of trap and is as Mr. Pedersen writes, "so simple, that I was afraid it wouldn't work, but it is a great success." The beauty of this trap is that it can be used as a pull string trap or that it can be set as an automatic trap and with both set-ups works equally as well.

This trap is 24 inches wide and 30 inches long but can be built in any similar size as long as the bander does not make it too big so that it is difficult to get the captured bird out.

A gathering cage is used on this type of trap in a similar manner as in all pull string traps of this type. The back door or top-opening door is 12 by 12 inches and the ground entrance door 8 by 24 inches which also gives the height of the trap. The illustration below gives a fairly clear idea of the set-up. Both doors fall by gravity and should have weights provided at the necessary edges to assure prompt action. Locking balls on both doors will be found helpful.



Note that the trigger stick rests on another stick from the center of the ground-opening door and it should be mentioned that the dowel stick "A" has at least 2 cross bars beneath the top opening door. This perch is directly above a garbage can cover, full of water. Mr. Pedersen writes that he puts bait along the side and well into the trap for those birds which do not bathe so often. "The birds seem to go in by either door but always go out by the top door and almost every time spring the trigger."

For further details write Carl A. Pedersen, Pascack Road, Woodcliff Lake, N.J., the designer of this month's trap.

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

On the 1st of this month, Rev. Edward Stoehr, formerly of Washington, D.C., opened his new station in the mountains of Maryland, about ten miles from Cumberland. His new address for the next year will be in care of the St. Peter & Paul Monastery, Fayette St., Cumberland, Md. During the past month he has been traveling from place to place but has been able to band at least 50 birds, mostly in Ohio, among which were 15 Blue Jays, 15 Purple Grackles and 11 Purple Martins. He has also constructed 5 new traps! With such an enthusiastic bander in Maryland, a large rise in the number of birds banded in this state can be confidently expected.

Pursuing his research in the diseases of wild birds, Dr. C. Brooke Worth has been busy during July and most of this month at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research at Princeton, N. J.

Howard P. Mahnken of Brooklyn, N. Y. sent two Starlings to Albany, N.Y. several months ago, to test their homing powers. The birds have not returned. We don't know how they were welcomed in Albany, but we dare anyone to send Starlings to the public library in Philadelphia. Thousands roost around the cornices of this building and any more may be decidedly unwelcome.

George Dock Jr., of Scarsdale, N.Y. reports a big haul of Blue Jays. In 30 days since June 20, he has banded 30 and taken a return...an average of a new Jay a day. He also states that he has found a better Fabian design and instead of the "V" shape, he is using a sort of reclining "K" shape. "The birds", he says, "go into it with less hesitation because the angle is about 120 degrees instead of 90 degrees, as originally designed. It gets everything from Warblers to Grackles".

Edwin A. Mason of Groton, Mass. writes that Northeastern has a new president, Prof. Lawrence B. Chapman, and they expect to hold regional meetings from time to time. Their first such meeting will be held on the 23rd. Our best wishes to the banders of New England and congratulations to Prof. Chapman. Mr. Mason also suggests some interesting ideas on record keeping which we hope to release in a future issue.

In answer to Russell C. Richards' request as to how to trap adult Flickers, Hobart Van Deusen of Upper Montclair, N.J. writes that "...flickers have often entered one of my ground-opening traps - dripping water as "bait", in Hanover, N.H.". He also says he likes dark green paint on his traps.

In answer to Raymond T. Fuller's request in the June issue, Dr. H. B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. writes, "Celluloid toys can be used for bands, but the yellows I have used will bleach in the sun. Small strips may be cut and twisted around the points of banding pincers and dipped into hot water, then into cold. When applied to the leg, hold them in place with the fingers and drop from an eye-dropper, a drop of acetone and hold the band until dry. Then it will stick, even for small birds. I placed a red band on a Thrasher on June 27, 1938, and on Apr. 19, 1941 it was still on. A Robin was banded with a green one on the right and a yellow on the left in Apr. 1939. The yellow bleached and was lost by 1941, but begorry the emerald stuck through those troubled years." (This is great work, Doctor, but wait a minute. "Ye Editor" stressed the need of four hands in this work in June;...Let's see, what does the above say? 1 hand to hold bird, 1 hand to hold the band in place and then with an eye-dropper, drop acetone on the band. Who or how is the eye-dropper held? A little problem to sink your teeth into...No?

Nearly every bander has occasionally met up with a bird with the "trap habit". Such a bird becomes a nuisance. Can you imagine six immature Blue Jays all getting the "trap habit" at one time at one station. This persistent sextet after two weeks of continual trap visits almost closed up "Ye Editor's" station, but since they have been transported away a mile, everything's normal again.

HAVE YOU ANY DATA ON JUNCOS?

In an endeavor to publish another cooperative paper by collecting data from our members, Dr. C. Brooke Worth, whose address appears on the front page, would like as many members as possible to send him their data on Slate Colored Juncos. This is a species about which little has been published and yet is a common winter visitant or resident, at most stations within our area.

Dr. Worth would like to know how many you have banded by winters and your grand total to date; Dates of arrival in Fall, length of stay at banding station of fall migrants, winter residents and Spring migrants; Returns; repeats; age; sex; plumage; disease, (especially "foot disease") and any other notes pertinent to conditions of the Junco visits at each station.

Reports on the movements of Juncos in states south of Pennsylvania are particularly desired and it is hoped that our southern banders will just snow our president under with data.

BIRD WEIGHING SCALES

For those banders who are weighing their bird visitors or contemplate such a plan, Hobart M. Van Deusen of Upper Montclair, N.J., recommends an excellent scale for this purpose, considering its price. This scale is known as the new Ohaus triple Beam Balance Scale and is manufactured by the Newark Scale Works of 14 Hobson St., Newark, N.J. It retails at \$10.75. The Newark Scale Works do not sell at retail but upon inquiry will inform you as to the nearest dealer. Their outlet for Northern New Jersey is Scientific Glass Co., 49 Ackerman St., Bloomfield, N.J.

Mr. Van Deusen used this scale while banding on Assateague Island in Maryland and found it very handy. In relating his method of weighing a Wilson's Plover, trapped on its breeding ground he used a wide-neck black cloth bag in which the bird is rolled and the bird's weight taken quickly. The scale is sensitive to one-tenth of a gram to 2,610 grams with attachments.

QUALITY RECORDS VS. VOLUME

The balance of Mr. Van Deusen's letter clearly illustrates an aim and belief of experienced banders and one in which EBBA is completely in agreement. We publish his expressions herewith:

"With time permitting, full plumage notes, weight, and basic measurements are taken on all birds banded. A separate card, 4 x 6 is made out for each bird. The individual card system admittedly is space consuming, and noting the above data takes time, but one builds up a mass of original data, which, if carefully taken, can be of as great importance as return records. Band fewer birds; learn more about each individual; This is good philosophy for those banders who only ring their birds and then start worrying why they don't have more station and foreign returns.

"I made a start this June banding warblers on their breeding grounds. I captured 6 Louisiana Water Thrush; 5 Hooded Warblers and 2 Black & White Warblers. These individuals were taken on specific areas which serve as breeding bird census plots." - Hobart M. Van Deusen.

HAVE YOU DATA ON THIS?

In an attempt to publish another cooperative paper by collecting data from our members, Dr. J. S. Sibley has, within the past year, made a list of many species as reported to him by his members. This list is a summary of the data which has been collected and it is a summary which is intended to be used as a reference.

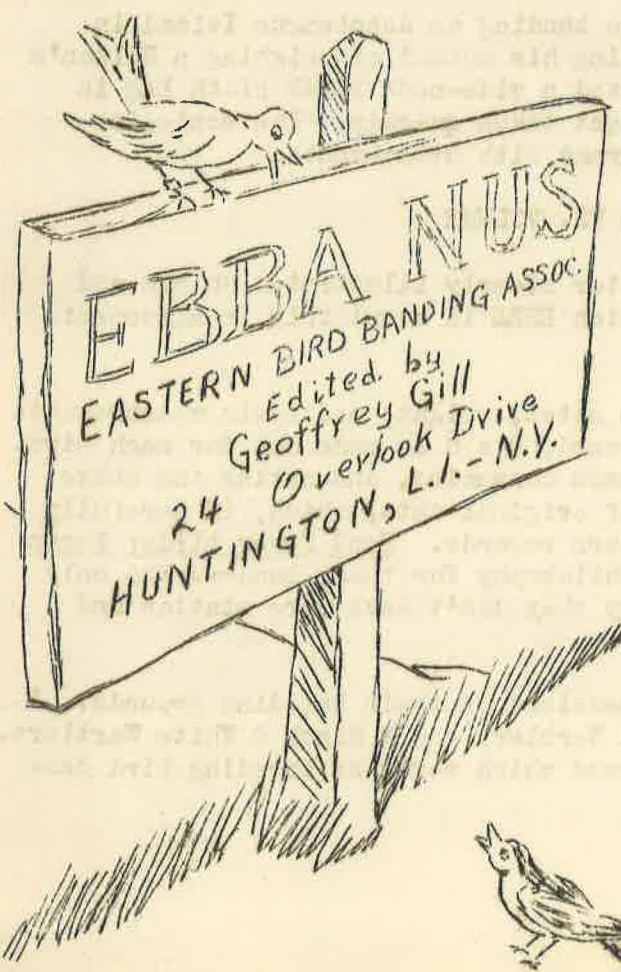
The birds which are listed in this paper are those which have been reported to me by members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association. It is a list of birds which have been reported to me by members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association. It is a list of birds which have been reported to me by members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

Reports on the movements of birds in winter with all the necessary details are particularly desired and it is hoped that the members of the Association will send such reports to me as soon as possible.

THE WINTER LIST

For those birds which are not listed in this paper, the members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association are requested to send me reports on their movements in winter. It is hoped that the members of the Association will send such reports to me as soon as possible.

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.



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