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, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and other States and in Canada.

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FOR BIGGER AND BETTER COOPERATION

Here's good news for the members of both Inland and Eastern Bird Banding Associations. After considerable thought, the officers of both associations have worked out an exchange plan whereby members of each group will receive, without any additional cost, the news-letters of both associations.

To the many members of the Eastern Association who have not had the good fortune to see a copy of the "INLAND NEWS", the organ of our sister association, we can truly say that it is a misfortune that we can soon remedy. "INLAND NEWS", now entering its 14th year is, in our judgment, one of the best mimeograph banding news-letters we have ever seen and one that has been an inspiration and guide to the people responsible for our own modest "EBBA NUS".

Under the able editorship of a very active bander and well-known ornithologist Prof. O. A. Stevens of Fargo, N.D., "INLAND NEWS" has been issued quarterly, each number brimming over with the news of banding operations in his area and just the news the banders like to receive. During 1942, Prof. Stevens tells us that their news-letter will be published bi-monthly with the first issue scheduled for February. We, therefore, have the pleasure of announcing that during this coming year, not only will our members receive "EBBA NUS" each month, but on every other month they will also receive the "INLAND NEWS".

In closing this little announcement, we can point out with pride, that with the many advantages easily recognized through such an exchange, it is now possible for the members of both associations to receive the experiences, the "inventions", (if we may call them such) and a knowledge of what other banders are doing from about 400 active banders, in place of such help from the 200 banders that made up the membership of each association. Be sure to watch for the next issue. It will mark a step forward toward our aim of greater cooperation among banders, both here in the east and to our brother and sister banders west of the Alleghenies.-"Let Us All Band Together."

BANDER GETS JUMPING MOUSE FOR ZOO

A fine specimen of Jumping Mouse was caught in a trap at the Falls Church, Virginia, banding station of Leon D. Cool. The interesting animal was brought alive to the Washington office (of the F. & W. Service) and later presented to the National Zoological Park by Mr. Cool. As Richard N. Crack, who contributed this item states, "There's no telling what these Fabian traps will catch next".

"IS "YE ED'S" FACE RED?

Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J., our association's most experienced bander caught "Ye Ed" off balance and quickly straightened him up as follows: "I was a bit surprised to read in the December "NUS", your comment regarding Juncos: 'So few returns of this species have been reported despite the great number that have been banded....."

"I wouldn't say that my returns are a large percentage of bandings and I have not opportunity just now to check-up, (The old fox) but I've had enough Junco returns so that I never thought of the bird as other than one that gave a fair expectancy of return; Without a check-up, I'd say pretty near on a par with Tree Sparrows with me, which is, I believe, considered a pretty good 'returner'.

"On December 13th, I captured a female White-throated Sparrow which I banded on Nov. 14, 1938 and which was a pretty good repeater in 1939. White-throats are scarce in returns. Like most banders, I believe, I've had but few returns of them."

"Ye Ed" agrees with "Beech" in regard to White-throats and Tree Sparrows. In regard to the return percentage of Juncos, "Ye Ed" sticks to his ship and is willing to be sunk with colors flying. Looking for data to substantiate either side the following interesting records come to light. Horace Groskin of Ardmore, Pa., between June 1939 and June 1940 trapped 187 Juncos and captured 14 banded in previous years. At present it is unknown as to what number of Juncos were banded to produce these 14 returns, but this number of returns seems high for one year and may support Beech's contention. It is interesting to note in Mr.Groskin's report for this period that he banded a Junco on Oct. 29, 1938 which was recovered on Nov. 19, 1939 at Canton, Ga. about 800 miles south of Ardmore; A Mourning Dove banded June 3, 1938, shot Nov. 27, 1939 in Folkston, Ga. about 875 miles south and an immature Robin banded Oct. 1, 1939 found about 3½ months later at Mobile, Ala., which is about 1200 miles southwest of Ardmore.

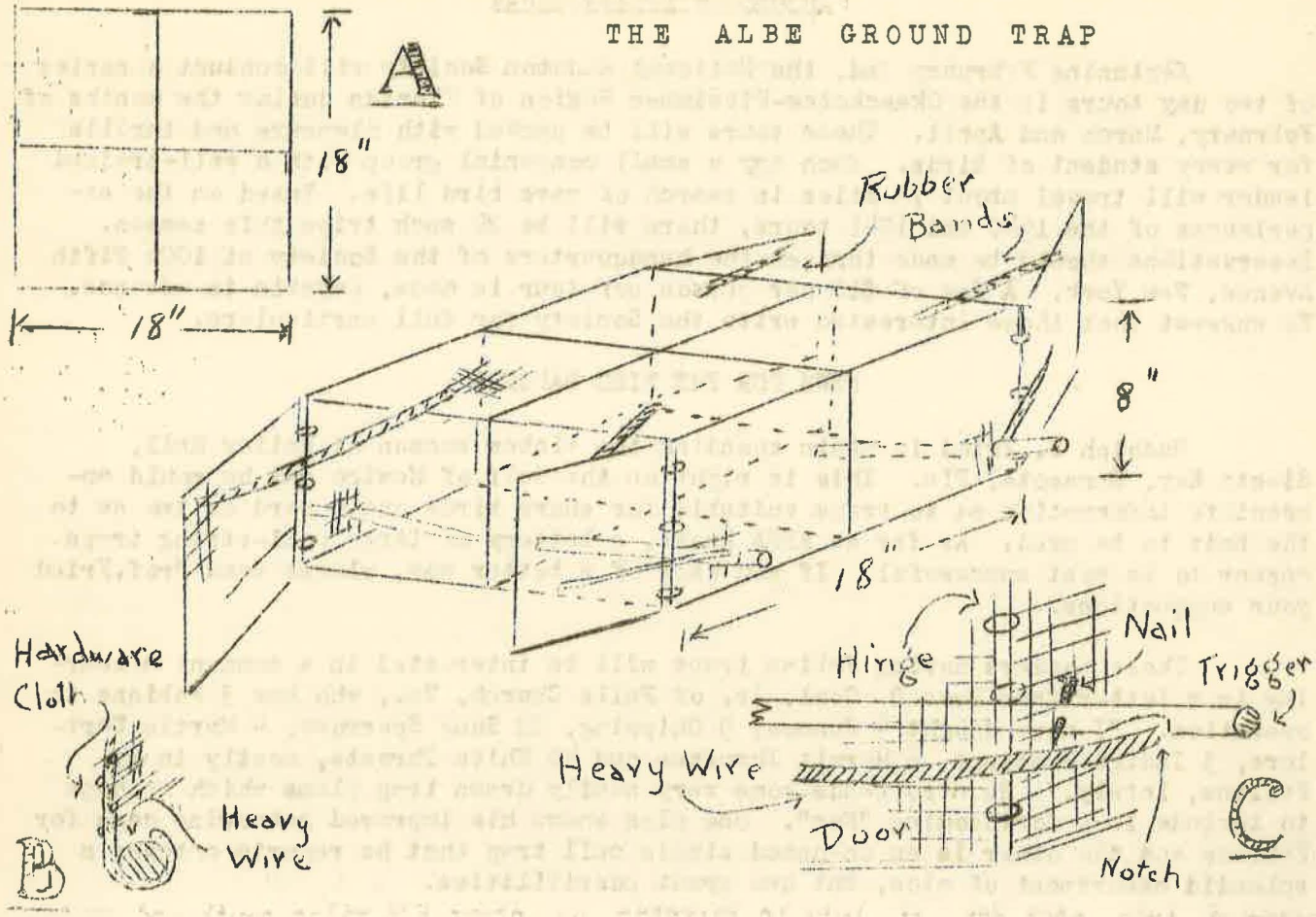
"Ye Ed" has banded 582 Juncos in 13 years previous to this winter with only 6 true returns. There have been 7 other returns of birds banded in the fall which returned the following spring which may or may not be returns. Such birds may have wintered nearby but did not enter the traps.

Mrs. Marie V. Beals banded 1,534 Juncos in 10 years at Elmhurst, L.I.,N.Y. and none returned. Raymond J. Middleton banded a large number in 20 years of banding and had few returns, but unfortunately his report is misplaced in the holiday festivities. Here is another report from Mr. Groskin. He reports 35 Juncos banded at Ardmore in 1937. Six, or over 17% returned in 1938 and seven, or 20% returned in 1939. Six of these seven were return (2), having returned both in 1938 and 1939. Possibly "Beech" is right. It is too bad that our "Proxy", who is making a special study of this species isn't available. He has the data from a number of stations and could referee the question. Won't you send in your thoughts on the subject?

BIRD MOVIES PUZZLE PUSS

Leonard Beyer, who besides being a bander and one of our members, is also a teacher of biology at the State Teacher's College at Mansfield, Pa. One evening he was showing bird movies in a home where there were both a dog and a cat. The pictures were being thrown on the wall and for fun Beyer lowered them almost to the floor. The dog went up to them and took a long inquisitive sniff. His nose told him that he couldn't believe his eyes so he took a back seat, obviously bored with the entire proceedings. The cat leapt to the attack and continuously clawed at the wall, trying to catch the birds as long as the pictures appeared.

THE ALBE GROUND TRAP



This ground trap is designed by Albert Lang Baily III, of West Chester, Pa., and simple in construction it will be found very helpful in catching a great variety of birds, particularly ground feeders. It does away with the overhead door and keeps different size birds segregated.

The first step in building is the making of a wire frame, as in drawing "A" with a wire that is preferably heavier than coat-hanger wire. Next get 2 pieces of hardware cloth in the mesh you prefer. One piece should be 18" by 54" (the main structure) and the other 24" x 20" (the doors). This allows enough to bend over the supporting wires. From the large piece cut a piece 18" x 35", bend this 8½" in from both ends thus forming a box without a bottom or ends. Then from the remaining hardware cloth of the original piece, cut the partitions and fasten them in place by bending the raw ends over as in drawing "B" except that you bend them over the adjoining hardware cloth. After you have done this you attach the frame to the superstructure using the method expressed in drawing "B".

Then take the other piece of hardware cloth and cut it into 4 equal pieces to form the doors. There ought to be enough to bend over the raw edges thus preventing any injury. It is advisable to allow enough so that the doors will overlap when closed. Then insert into the doors a piece of heavy wire that sticks out beyond the side to be hinged by 3 inches as in drawing "C". After this hinge the doors by any method that one prefers.

Next make 4 triggers that are notched at one end and about 1 inch from the notch have a nail driven through to keep it from sliding all the way through the mesh. When the triggers are made arrange them as shown in drawing "C". One can get rubber bands as shown in any five and dime store. Paint the trap if you desire.

Mr. Baily's trap is unpainted and besides catching a number of Juncos it has caught two Junco returns.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE TOURS

Beginning February 2nd, the National Audubon Society will conduct a series of two day tours in the Okeechobee-Kissimmee Region of Florida during the months of February, March and April. These tours will be packed with pleasure and thrills for every student of birds. Each day a small congenial group with a well-trained leader will travel about 75 miles in search of rare bird life. Based on the experiences of the 1940 and 1941 tours, there will be 20 such trips this season. Reservations should be made through the headquarters of the Society at 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York. A fee of $10 per person per tour is made, payable in advance. We suggest that those interested write the Society for full particulars.

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

Rudolph S. Fried is again spending the winter season at Bailey Hall, Siesta Key, Sarasota, Fla. This is right on the Gulf of Mexico and he would appreciate information as to traps suitable for shore birds and a word or two as to the bait to be used. As far as EBBA knows, a battery of large pull-string traps appear to be most successful. If you know of a better way, please send Prof.Fried your suggestions.

Those banders having Fabian traps will be interested in a comment appearing in a letter from Leon D. Cool, Jr. of Falls Church, Va., who has 3 Fabians in operation. "I have caught 9 Juncos, 9 Chipping, 22 Song Sparrows, 4 Myrtle Warblers, 3 Indigo Buntings, 6 Hermit Thrushes and 42 White Throats, mostly in my Fabians, lately." He also sends some very neatly drawn trap plans which we hope to include in a forthcoming "Nus". One plan shows his improved gathering cage for Fabians and the other is an un-named single cell trap that he reports catches a splendid assortment of mice, but has great possibilities.

Many banders report unseasonable weather and banding as slow. This month and next month is a splendid time to overhaul your equipment and place it in good shape for the Spring season. It is also a good time to check your records. You will be surprised at what a study of your records will tell you. Banding in itself and the designing of proper traps is only part of the game. Digging out little known facts or often times unknown facts, from our records, is not only exciting, but definitely worthwhile.

On Nov. 14, William Astle of Flushing, L.I., N.Y. spoke before a large group of Boy and Girl Scouts at Whitestone, N.Y. on banding. "Ye Ed" also "did" a local school assembly on our favorite topic on Nov. 9th with an added plea to feed the birds in the winter, particularly in the late winter months.

In a report dated Dec. 31st, our Treasurer, Robert K. Ungemah of 10 Jackson Ave., White Plains, N.Y. tells us of a splendid response to our annual plea for dues. If you haven't already sent in your dues, please do so NOW. We fully realize that during these trying times there are many calls upon us all for our spare time and spare dollars. However, one of the things our country is pledged to defend is our natural resources. Bird banding too, plays its part in conservation. Buy bonds and defense stamps, volunteer for civilian defense duties by all means - But let us carry on Bird Banding for conservation and our country's sake.

Here we are down to the bottom of another page and so many things are left unsaid. Howard Kates of Montoursville, Pa. picked up a Chimney Swift banded in Charlottesville, Va. Malcolm Lerch of Penn Yan, N.Y. has rejoined our group and we find that F. W. Trevor of the Millbrook School, Millbrook, N.Y. who joined with us way back last summer, was never included in the lists of new members. Apologies are in order.

NEWS FOR THE BANDERS

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wylie of Montvale, N.J. report a large flight of Fox Sparrows this Fall and that they were able to band 24. They call this catch less than a "smattering" - so one can judge how many were around their station. "Ye Ed" generally catches 2 or 3 a year so 24 in a season looks pretty big. 5 were seen around on Christmas Day, which was unusual and may point to a larger flight this year. Chickadees and Snowy Owls are also reported as abundant.

Gilbert Raynor of Manorville, L.I., N.Y. is now living at 203 Chestnust St., New Britain, Conn.

Lawrence Howe of Belmont, N.Y. reports the capture of another Cardinal and states that the bird's husband is hanging around wearing a band. This may be a return for him. Belmont is really outside of the ordinary range of this species until recent years.

In response to an inquiry, Mrs. Marie Dumont of Pequannock, N.J. writes: "I think one of the best ways for taking Goldfinches is not the kind of trap, but the food offered. I find they are extra fond of millet and sunflower seed and then water plays a big part in their lives too. I bait my brenckles, house and false-bottom traps with these two kinds of seeds and also keep water in the first two mentioned traps. The first a drip and the second just a pan of water. Naturally the false-bottoms are too small to accommodate water, but they go in after seed -- In fact, come to think of it, I even catch them in Mr. Pederson's trap as shown in "Ebba Nus". It might also be of interest to mention that we have a Catbird with us at this late day. (Dec. 18th) I banded it about 3 weeks ago and it has repeated ever since....."

Leroy Wilcox, Box 16, Speonk, L.I., N.Y. is preparing a paper for publication on Ospreys and urgently requests any bander who has banded any of this species since January 1st, 1941 to send him complete information on the banding accomplished. Full credit will be given with all data used.

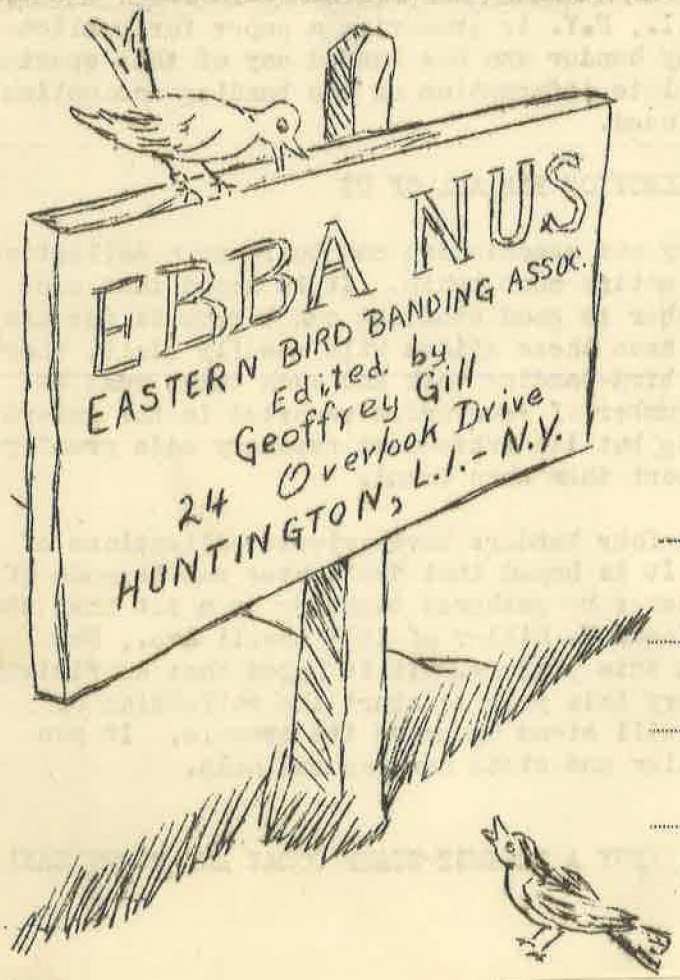
A KODACHROME COLLECTION FOR ALL OF US

Plans are being discussed whereby our association can build up a collection of kodachrome slides for the use of the entire membership. It is hoped that once this collection is in being that any member in good standing can borrow it for use during a lecture date. As all who have seen these slides will readily admit, they add a great deal to the interest of any bird-banding talk and such talks must be continually carried on to increase the number of recoveries reported to the government. The banding of a bird means little but its subsequent recovery adds greatly to the value. We must get people to report them when found.

So far it is known that at least four banders have private collections of kodachromes on the subject of banding. It is hoped that duplicates can be made of the best of these slides and such duplicates be gathered together as a set that can be sent out on request to any bander. Jesse V. Miller of 1533 Lowell Ave., New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y. is working hard on this project. It is hoped that sufficient funds can be "earmarked" from our treasury this year to start the collection or possibly buy a projector in a case that will stand up under its travels. If you are interested won't you contact Mr. Miller and state how you can help.

BUY A DEFENSE STAMP TODAY AND EVERY DAY! BUY A DEFENSE STAMP TODAY AND EVERY DAY!

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.



Prof. Dayton Stoner
New York State Museum
Albany, N.Y.