

D. Atner - 3/20/42



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.

March, 1942

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

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WE COULDN'T ASK FOR BETTER COOPERATION

The officers of our association are amazed. The splendid support shown by our members has surprised even the most enthusiastic expectations and is remarkable in such times. We hope some little bird will lead us, stumbling as is our way, to live up to your aspirations and kind predictions.

Through these columns we have asked for information and commented on various subjects of interest to banders. For instance, we have mentioned the ability to trap returns of Juncos; of White Throats; we have spoken of Blue Jay recoveries; of traps; of Myrtle Warblers; suggested annual reports; Banding terminology, etc. From states all over, letters - and we mean a goodly number of letters, not just one or two - have arrived setting forth the bander's personal experiences with a species of bird or the theme of a casual paragraph. These letters contain a gold-mine of useful information and we only wish that we had space to publish them all for every bander.

Through these columns we have requested the annual dues, a vital but delicate subject to broach in any organization. While a response of 100 percent was never anticipated, our association very closely approached such a score. Even those banders called to the defense of our country continue their interest. Here are excerpts from the letters of two such banders:

"Enclosed find check for my dues for 1942. Uncle Sam has called me back to the colors....I felt that you might possibly use these trap doors (in separate parcel)....I have a few traps that any bander can have, who can get to my home. (Montoursville, Pa.)....When I start again it will be with all new equipment. Here is wishing EBBA the best....maybe I will be able to band a few Japs, Italians or Germans". (A report of his banding work to date follows and he closes with the following comment) "Juncos are poor returners, maybe after the war, I can make out my compilation. Best of luck and on to Victory."

Howard A. W. Kates, Captain, U. S.

"Enclosed find a money order for my dues in EBBA for 1942. I received my pay about two weeks ago, but it is necessary to go into town to purchase a money order, and since passes are restricted during wartime, this matter has been delayed....I have received all recent copies of the "NUS". The letter then continues for two pages, giving a list of the North American birds he has seen wintering in his area and expressing the hope that he will get military permission to band a few of them while off duty. He sends us his best wishes from the tropics, in closing, and all in all, it is another dandy letter, from

Pvt. Thomas A. Imhof
U. S. Army Hospital Service

For the splendid cooperation of these banders in the service and to the banders who serve at home, EBBA says, like Tiny Tim, "God bless us one and all".

A BIRD BOOK AT A SAVING

A member of the banding association who wishes to buy a copy of "Birds of North Carolina" can save \$1.25 by ordering now. This book which is expected to come off the press in July, consists of about 400 pages, covers 396 kinds of birds recorded in North Carolina, has 20 full-page color plates and 17 full-page black and white plates. Reg. price \$3.50. To banders NOW \$2.25. Order from Harry T. Davis, North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

CUPID IS CARRYING ON

A little bird told us, (and it wasn't the phool parrot either) that Miss Margaret Brooks, who is doing a splendid job as editor of Audubon Magazine, is engaged to be married to our former New York Councillor, Joseph J. Hickey. Mr. Hickey will be remembered for his great work in the gigantic Herring Gull colored banding project and Miss Brooks will be --- but then, no one who has ever met her, would forget her. Congratulations and good wishes.

ON THE ALERT

Bob Ungemah and George Dock, Jr. were taking part in the Christmas Audubon census with a sortie north of White Plains, N.Y. They found that several other ornithologists on the same mission had been arrested as suspected enemy aliens for appearing near Kensico Dam sporting binoculars. John Kieran was of this number and it proves that Westchester authorities are on watch. On Feb. 12th while on a bird walk near Scarsdale in his customary tattered slacks and old leather coat, George Dock was observed with field glasses and reported to the police. After investigating, the police reported "Just another crazy bird chaser". "Ye Ed" suggests some method of cooperation if such can be worked out, or a visit to the police station first!

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

The January issue of the National Geographic carries an article on hawk trapping by the Craighead Brothers of Washington, D.C. They describe several effective traps different from any so far seen, with wholly distinct types for accipters and falcons, small nooses for the former, nets for the latter. It will pay to look over this article. And while on the subject of Hawk trapping, James B. Young of Louisville, Ky. would like to receive suggestions from any banders on this type of work.

John J. Elliott, editor of a column in the Nassau Daily Review-Star, entitled "Long Island Bird Notes" gave banding and the Eastern association in particular, some splendid publicity recently.

Beecher S. Bowdish in the "Newark (N.J.) Evening News" relates a little banding story leading up to the sudden demise of a cat around his banding traps.

It was our plan to include in this issue another illustration and text on how to build another small bird trap, but the table of recoveries from Chimney Swifts banded by Mr. Fleetwood in Georgia seems so interesting and mentions so many banders that "Ye Ed" feels it shouldn't be delayed. This table deserves more than a passing glance. Please note the manner in which most of these birds are recovered and also some of the dates and distances between the time of banding and recovery, i.e. from Macon, Ga. to Litchfield, Conn. in 12 days. You will also note the earliest recovery in the year is in Texas. Other items of interest such as the great number of recoveries in Canada will be revealed with study. These recoveries do not represent all the banded birds that have been reported back to Mr. Fleetwood, but a selection of some of his most interesting recoveries. It is hoped this bander will work up a paper on his Swift banding for our official quarterly in the near future.

RECOVERIES OF CHIMNEY SWIFTS

Banded by R. J. Fleetwood

BANDED AT MILLEDGEVILLE, GA.

<u>Date Banded</u>	<u>Recovered at</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>How Caught</u>
10/1/40	Groton, Mass.	5/25/41	E. A. Mason	By bander
same	Thaxon, Virginia	5/25/41	W. O. Dooley	Caught
same	Highland, New York	6/ 4/41	R. Burton	Caught in stove
same	Bristol, Vermont	6/11/41	L. H. Landon	Found in stove
same	Fairdale, Penna.	6/26/41	Dr. M. Wood	Found by Bander

BANDED AT MADISONVILLE, KY.

9/27/38	Port Arthur, Ont.	6/16/40	L. S. Dear	Found dead
9/27/38	Baton Rouge, La.	10/8/38	G. Lowery	By bander
10/ 3/38	Joliet, Ill.	5/ 6/40	G. N. Hufford	Found dead
same	Mt. Berry, Georgia	10/15/40	H. C. Jones	By bander

BANDED AT MACON, GA.

9/17/39	Petite Riviere au Renard, Quebec	7/28/41	A. Samuel	Killed by cat
9/10/39	Athol, Mass.	5/19/40	R. Allison	Found dead
10/22/39	Sully, Quebec	6/--/41	G. Cosette	same
same	Kirkwood, N.S.	8/28/40	A. Campbell	same
same	London, Ont.	9/28/40	H. Hitchcock	By bander
5/ 5/40	Mt. Berry, Georgia	10/15/40	H. C. Jones	By bander
same	Knoxville, Tenn.	10/ 5/40	H. Meyer	By bander
5/ 7/40	Litchfield, Conn.	5/19/40	R. Borgeson	Caught
8/25/40	Blind River, Ont.	8/ 2/41	I. J. Sturgis	By bander
9/ 8/40	Montrose, Penna.	6/ 3/41	L. F. Smith	Caught in house
9/15/40	Griswoldville, Mass.	7/--/40	A. Currier	Found dead
9/22/40	Prattville, Ala.	9/28/40	G. Rawlinson	Shot
10/ 3/40	Daingerfield, Texas	4/30/41	L. O'Connor	Found
same	Concord, N. H.	8/ 4/41	F. B. White	Found dead
same	Eaganville, Ont.	6/--/41	M. Miller	Caught in house
10/22/40	Salem, N. Y.	5/ 5/41	Dr. Orton	Came down chimney

FOREIGN BANDED SWIFTS RETRAPPED BY MR. FLEETWOOD at Morton's Gap, Ky.

<u>Date Banded</u>	<u>Where Banded</u>	<u>By Whom</u>	<u>Date Retrapped</u>
5/12/34	Kingston, Ontario	Miss Ida Merriman	10/2/ 38
?	Charlottesville, Va.	John C. Calhoun	same
?	Milford, N. H.	James P. Melzer	same

RETRAPPED AT MILLEDGEVILLE, GA.

9/29/39	New Boston, Ohio	L. E. Hicks	9/24/40
5/19/40	Kingston, Ontario	Ronald W. Smith	5/13/41

RETRAPPED AT MACON, GA.

Probably 1935	Phoenixville, Pa.	Chas. G. Kriebel	10/22/39
5/15/38	Kingston, Ontario	Miss Ida Merriman	same
5/ 2/39**	Charlottesville, Va.	J. C. Calhoun	9/22/40
9/ 1/39	Chester, Pa.	Dr. C. B. Worth	5/ 7/40
10/ 7/39	University, La.	G. H. Lowery	9/15/40
5/14/40	Ithaca, N. Y.	W. W. Middlekauf	9/22/40
same	same	same	9/15/40
?	Sweet Briar, Va.	E. P. Edwards	10/22/39

**Two birds

WHITE THROATS RETURN IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Prof. R. E. Ware of Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson, S.C. has banded 1,186 White-throats in 6 years, between 1935 and 1940. During this time he has had an interesting number of returns. Inasmuch as many banders have noted a trend in this species, showing that the majority do NOT return, we are publishing a table of his data. It should be stated that "Ye Ed" has compiled this table, and is subject to correction, from 2 lists submitted by Prof. Ware. These lists contain some duplication and also several "border-line" cases which have been omitted. Such birds as those banded in November and entering the trap again in February of the following year and December birds retrapped in March, while 3 months apart, have been dropped from the records. These birds may be migratory returns and then again, they may have wintered nearby and just not entered the traps during the intervening period. All the records shown here are judged to be true returns and represent the first time the bird appeared in the trap as a true return after banding. Only 2 birds returned twice. One bird banded in 1937 returned in 1938 and 1940. A 1938 bird returned in 1939 and also in 1940.

True 1st Returns of White-throats banded at Clemson, S.C.

Year	No. Banded	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	Total
1935	33	2	1	0	2	5
1936	216	5	6	0	1	12
1937	214	25	3	3	0	31
1938	102	4	4	3		11
1939	216	3	1			4
1940	<u>405</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>23</u>
	1,186	62	15	6	3	86

It would appear that White-throats return more consistently to their wintering area in the southern part of their winter range, than they do in the north. Trapping, weather and food conditions probably effect the above records to some extent.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS IN A WELL

Raymond J. Fleetwood of Round Oak, Ga., has been banding for 3 years with special attention given to Chimney Swifts. In 1941 he banded 6,882 of this species and his grand total has now reached 21,528 Swifts, mostly banded in Macon, Ga. Neighbors told him that a well in Clinton, Ga. had been used as a roosting place for Swifts for at least 3 years. Paying the well a visit, he succeeded in banding 72 birds he found there last Fall. So far he has taken 135 Swifts banded by others and has had several reports come back to him from his own Swifts.

Besides his Swift traps, he has four other traps in which he finds that browntop millet is the best bait. In addition to Swifts he has banded 110 Blue-birds; 37 Crested Flycatchers; 6 Slate Colored Juncos, (110 banded in '39); 84 Chipping Sparrows, (74 banded in '39), and 2 Chuck-Will-Widows. One Junco banded last Winter which returned this Winter is his only return for the species so far.

Mr. Fleetwood would like to have information on the technique of trapping Purple Martins when they are roosting in trees approximately 30 ft. from the ground. Has anyone any ideas for such a stunt?

Robert C. McClanahan of Washington, D.C. won't be banding in 1942. He is a reserve officer of the U. S. Army and has been called into service.

HAWKS AND OWLS IN THE CELLAR

Stanley Grierson of Katonah, N.Y. writes, "I am very desirous of expanding my collection of live hawks and owls. In summer I am employed at the Bear Mt. Trailside Museum, where I am in charge of the live birds of prey. In the summer I lend my own birds for the Museum display and in the winter I board the museum birds at my own home. My own collection of live birds consists of 2 Red-shouldered, 2 Red-Tailed and a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Screech Owls and a Great Horned Owl. Add this to the Museum's collection of a Golden Eagle, a Red-shoulder, a Red-tail, a Barred Owl, a Screech owl and several Horned Owls and you have a fair collection of birds to educate the public in regard to bird of prey conservation. During the winter, when I have the birds at home, some of the local schools send classes to see them."

It is interesting to note that Mr. Grierson does not keep the birds confined in cages, but on perches, by means of a leg leash. Mr. Grierson extends an invitation to any bander passing through his vicinity to pay him a visit and see these birds.

In discussing his banding activities, he writes that on Nov. 19, 1941 he banded a Chickadee. In the latter part of January a Sharp-shin was seen around his traps. A few days later, Mrs. Cecilie Fielder, a fellow bander in Katonah reported a Sharp-shin around her banding station and suggested he come over and try to capture it. When Mr. Grierson arrived the Sharp-shin had departed. However, after some searching he found a pellet of bones and feathers. Breaking open the pellet a band was found inside which proved to be the one he placed on the Chickadee in November. From this evidence and his knowledge of hawks, Mr. Grierson surmises "Since the chickadee had remained near my station until his death, I am sure that its remains were carried to Mrs. Fielder's station in the hawk's stomach. Mrs. Fielder's hawk was the same one seen by my mother in our yard. He visited my station, killed the Chickadee, then visited Mrs. Fielder's station, spitting up the pellet and band before devouring one of her birds."

WHAT BANDERS ARE DOING

George Dock, Jr. of Scarsdale, N.Y., captured a Barred Owl late in January in some woods about a mile from his home. He used a Starling in a cage as bait and surrounded the cage with 12 padded-jaw steel traps. The Starling and Owl both emerged unscathed from the episode.

Harry S. Bristow, Jr., of Cedars, Del. writes that since March '41, he has banded 230 Purple Grackles and has already received 2 recoveries; 1 in his own State and 1 in Maryland. Mr. Bristow started his banding in March '41 and by June 30, he had banded 48 species and a total of 410 birds. He is very interested in Catbirds.

Robert K. Ungemah of White Plains, N.Y. reports the capture of a female Cardinal he banded in August, on Feb. 1st, and late in January he trapped a Hermit Thrush, the first to be caught at his station. Both are rather rare catches. Along a similar line of thought, Howard Mahnke of Brooklyn, N.Y. banded a Catbird in January, 1940.

Just to prove that a Brenckle is always a good trap, we quote the following note from Beecher Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. "I've kept my Brenckle set part of the time in cold weather with the drip cut off, on general principles. On Dec. 28, when I went out and saw 6 of the cells wiggling with birds, I almost thought we were back in the good old summer time. The trap contained 3 Tree Sparrows and 3 Myrtle Warblers"...Nice going in an 8 cell Brenckle!

Dr. Alfred O. Gross of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, would like banders to report dates and places Snowy Owls have been seen or shot during this past winter.

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



Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

Report a dead bird wearing a band, when found, to
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

"BUY DEFENSE BONDS"