

DeStowel  
Rec'd 5/18/42



# 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.

May, 1942

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

Vol. 5, No. 5

President: Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.  
Secretary: Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.  
Treasurer: Robert K. Ungemah, 10 Jackson Avenue, White Plains, N. Y.  
Editor: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L. I., N. Y.

## THE GET-TOGETHER IN WESTCHESTER

Perfect was the weather for the outing in Westchester on April 25th, and perfect is the word to describe the entire afternoon. Assembling at White Plains, at 2:30 p.m., at the banding station of our treasurer, "Bob" Ungemah, a party of 19 "piled" into 4 cars to tour nearby stations, inspect traps and discuss catches. Some of the equipment will be described in future Nus issues.

The Ungemah station is located on the lip of a deep ravine. He has a step-saving gathering cage, designed to pick up several birds at once without any escapes, which is quite a gadget and as simple as A.B.C. He also has an ever-set trap built on a pendulum principle that is thought provoking.

Miss Grace C. Meleney's station, just around two or three corners from the Ungemah station, has some splendid traps in a nice garden location. Her 8-cell Brenckle was greatly admired and a little single cell with a double action tray, involving both ground and top-opening doors closing together, caused considerable comment.

From White Plains, the cavalcade sped up the parkway around Kensico Dam to Katonah. Here we visited the station of Stanley Grierson and his collection of live hawks and owls. To describe this array, the confident manner in which Mr. Grierson handles his birds and his station would easily fill this entire issue-- then it is doubtful whether we would mention everything. It is hard to say which bird was the most popular with the camera and movie fans. Subjects ran all the way from tiny Screech Owls in both color phases, the red being the most sociable, to a proud and disdainful Eagle. Besides the hawks and owls, mention should be made of a Herring Gull, Crow and Kingbird, also Mrs. Grierson's unusual house pet, "Sachet", a full-grown skunk which almost stole the show.

The afternoon just flew and while it was intended to include visits to the stations of Mrs. Fielder and Prof. Fried, both in Katonah and also the station of George Dock, Jr. in Scarsdale, rigid train-schedules made such visits impossible. It is hoped that they can be covered on the next Westchester trip.

Those present included W. Astle of Flushing; W. B. Cook and Wm. Burdsall of Port Chester; Miss E. G. Stewart of New York; J. V. Miller of New Hyde Park; F. Trevor, J. Kriser, J. Bontecau, P. Huber, R. Moore and O. Thorn of Millbrook; G. Dock Jr., of Scarsdale; S. Grierson of Katonah; Miss G. C. Meleney and Mr. & Mrs. R. Ungemah of White Plains; Mr. & Mrs. G. Gill and daughter of Huntington.

No account of the trip would be complete without unstinted praise for our genial treasurer, -- an able master of ceremonies if we ever saw one, and his charming wife -- Her tempting refreshments at the close of the tour will always be a fond memory. May we repeat, --- "Banders are such nice folks".



## YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK A POLICEMAN

On April 7th a patrol car of the Nassau Police unavoidably struck a Robin near Mineola, L.I., N.Y. The car stopped and the injured bird was picked up, found to be suffering from a broken wing. Lieutenant Wheelright, of the 3rd Precinct, to whom the accident was reported, noted that the Robin was wearing a band bearing No. 40-271557. In some amazing manner, although in the next County and some fifteen miles away, Lieut. Wheelright called "Ye Ed" and asked for instructions as to the care of the cripple and as to how he should report it to Washington. This kindly officer is unknown to the writer and I am still puzzled as to how he knew where to call. However, the incident is further proof that you can always place implicit trust in "The Boys in Blue". Ye Ed instructed the officer to take the Robin to the nearest bander, Jesse V. Miller of New Hyde Park for care and they did. --- "Jess" Miller's version of the same recovery: "Robin 40-271557 was brought to me by a police car on April 7th, vigorous enough and with a good appetite, but I would judge that it had been seriously mauled by a cat some 24 hours before and since then handled a great deal. In fact, I understand it was brought to the police by a boy. I fed it and placed splints on its wings. It died on April 9th and I believe it suffered more from shock than the injured wing itself." The Robin was banded by Mr. Miller at his station on June 17, 1941 as an adult male. It returned to the station on Mar. 26, 1942 and repeated so much that a red band was placed on his unbanded leg. Sight repeats were made almost daily until the Robin came home in the police car.

## BANDING RESULTS FROM PENN YAN

Malcolm J. Lerch of Penn Yan, N.Y. recently sent in his annual report for 1941. The letter enclosed with the report is of such interest that we herewith publish parts of it with data from his report enclosed in brackets:

"We, my wife does almost as much of the actual banding as I, have been banding for four years and to date (Apr. 13) have banded 3,016 birds of 52 species. (1143 banded in '41) Of course, not all of these have been trapped at our home station. There is a marsh at the foot of Keuka Lake and in the fall I usually have a few traps there. We get Swamp (35 in '41), Savannah (3 in '41) and Song Sparrows (303 in '41) with now and then a Rusty (3) or Redwing Blackbird (5). There too, in the late summer we band swallows roosting on the cattails at night. (Report for '41 shows the banding of 233, mostly Barn Swallows).

"I always carry an assortment of bands in my pocket while working on the farm and quite often band a young bird. On Apr. 4th I found a Horned Lark's nest and on the 13th there were 2 young birds in it. If the present snow storm doesn't kill them I may be able to band them when they grow a little larger."

"There are 3 other banders active within 15 miles of us, but so far only 2 of my birds have been recovered by nearby banders and I have captured none of theirs. Besides a Herring Gull banded by H. C. Wilson at Sister's Island, Green Bay, Wis. on June 21, 1936, which I caught at Penn Yan on Jan. 16, 1941 and a Bronzed Grackle banded by me on June 9, 1939 and shot at Geneva, N.Y. on May 21, 1941, we have had a Robin recovered in Louisiana, a White-throat recovered in Texas and a Redpoll in Massachusetts.

"Our "returningest" species is the Tree Sparrow. During the winter of '40-'41, we banded 134 of these. This past winter we had 30 of that 134 back again. This was just the returns of that particular group and did not include any returns of birds banded in other years. This is a 22 percent return. It is interesting to note that in this group there was a series of 7 consecutively banded birds who all returned. Often these birds will return one year exactly from the date they were banded.



## TAMPICO - A MEXICAN MECCA FOR GULLS

Shortly after Dr. Worth sent a newspaper clipping from Tampico, Mexico, relating the recovery of a gull thereabouts, we received a second air-mail letter containing a second clipping from the same paper reporting another Gull recovery. The translation of this second report is not as humorous as the first report, published in the April issue, and to conserve space we omit it. The second Gull was caught by a fisherman, Senor Gonzalo Tovar, "a man of the humble class". Regularly as clock-work, a third air-mail letter arrived reporting a third recovery from the same place. This last Gull was caught by an oil worker, Senor Geronimo Reyes. \* Dr. Worth hopes that the similarity of his letters are not boring and jokingly suggests that EBBA establish a branch to report recoveries at Tampico. Possibly INLAND might be interested in such a project as Frederick C. Lincoln of the F. & W.F. Service has kindly completed the records for us, which shows that these birds are from INLAND'S territory as follows:

- 41-667426, Herring Gull, caught by Senor Platon Arellano at Tampico, Mexico, Mar. 15, 1942, was banded by R. H. Manville, July 9, 1941 at Heron Island, Marquette County, Michigan.
- 40-685454, Herring Gull, caught by Senor Gonzalo Tovar at Tampico, Mexico, March 30, 1942, was banded by H. E. McArthur, June 19, 1941 at Snake Island, Delta County, Michigan.
- 40-685768, Herring Gull, caught by Senor Geronimo Reyes at Tampico, Mexico, April 6, 1942, was banded by H. E. McArthur, June 20, 1941 at Spider Island, Door County, Wisconsin.

It is probable that all these Gulls were banded as young of the year, last season. It has been shown that most of the older birds are recovered much farther north. Note Mr. Lerch's recovery of the same species in this issue.

\* The fourth gull recovery will be reported next month.

### NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

On April 19, 1942, Dr. William Pepper of Melrose Park, Pa. caught a Downy Woodpecker he banded as an adult male on Nov. 30, 1935. This bird had also returned on March 23rd, 1937 at the same station. It appears that this bird is at least 7 or 8 years old and to our knowledge sets an age record for this species. Dr. Pepper states it was a fine healthy looking bird and while the band was polished it was not worn thin.

By the time you read this another bander will have joined many of our organization in the armed services of Uncle Sam. This bander is John McMahon of the Harrisburg Academy, Harrisburg, Pa. Besides being a bander, Mr. McMahon is a teacher of Latin and German. He has promised to write just as soon as he gets settled in the Army. In the meantime, wherever he is, he has the best wishes of all of us here on the home front.

Which very naturally leads up to this notice to banders in the armed service or about to join up: When stationed at any location for any length of time write to any official of your organization. They will be happy to send you the names and addresses of any nearby banders. We think we can speak for all banders when we say that they would be delighted to have you drop in on them on any evening you have a free moment and see their banding station. Then write and tell us about your visit. We, who, due to age, sex or other numerous reasons, cannot be with you, standing shoulder to shoulder, are with you in spirit, doing our utmost to also serve.



## BANDING ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

Considerable comment has been made recently concerning the abundance of Black Capped Chickadees during this past winter and fall. "Dick" Fischer of Flushing, N.Y., suggests that some member of our organization should volunteer to gather information from our members and prepare a paper on the subject. The idea seems like a good one and only awaits some member to volunteer to take this matter in hand.

While on the subject of banding papers, "Ye Ed" would like to call to the banders' attention the value of a cooperative effort. Particularly in banding papers having to do with migration, all of us know that a station has to band an enormous number of a species over several years before attaining sufficient material to warrant "breaking into print". Recoveries of a banded bird are a matter of chance and probably always will be.

However, if banders would freely exchange data and such data, say from the northern part of a state or the southern part of a state, be considered as a whole, important results could be obtained much more quickly and accurately. To cite a case that illustrates this point: "Ye Ed" recently came across an article summarizing banding activities at a certain station with certain interesting theories based on the records. As we recall, in commenting on a certain migratory species of which several hundred had been banded, it was found that the only three distant recoveries had been received, all from Southern New Jersey. This naturally led the writer to express the belief that a large proportion of this species wintered in that area. An article published on the same subject some years ago stated that the probable wintering area was much further south and had many more recoveries to cite in support of such a belief.

Out of curiosity, "Ye Ed" wrote to three banding stations within 15 miles of the station who claimed a proportion of this species wintered in New Jersey. He asked these banders to send him the number of the species banded and full report of all recoveries. The total for the 3 nearby stations gives 10 more recoveries, only one of which is in N. J. and 9 much further south. Obviously if the bander had cooperated with his nearby banders and considered the 13 recoveries as a whole, 75 percent of them would show that this bird winters further south than suggested in his published paper.

### DID YOU NOTICE IT?

A. L. Baily III, of West Chester, Pa. calls our attention to a full-page advertisement on Page 57 of the April 18th issue of the Saturday Evening Post. The illustration used to advertise Kendall Oil depicts a family of banded birds and probably represents the first bird banding illustration used in National advertising. Bet a cookie some bander took the photograph.

In the April number we stated that a Purple Finch banded in Boonton, N.J. had been retaken in North Carolina. Along comes another report of a New Jersey Purple Finch recovery. Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. reports that such a finch banded by him in Feb., 1940 was found dead April 9, 1942 at Chevy Chase, Md. A few more such recoveries and we will be able to guess where these Jersey Finches go.

A. E. Clattenberg, Jr. of Washington, D.C. is another member who has recently sent in an annual report for 1941. Mr. Clattenberg banded 602 birds of 29 species. Heading his list are Song Sparrows, 136; Starlings, 130; and Catbirds, 73. He started banding in October 1940 and now has 14 traps.



## NOW THAT WE ARE WALKING

With the tire situation as it is, many banders will be doing more walking or riding bicycles along the side of the road. Whichever they do, they should not pass up the opportunity to watch curbs, gutters and roadways closely for injured and dead birds. This highway mortality among birds goes on at all times, but reaches a peak just after the young birds leave the nest in the months to come. Please stop and look over these victims. Some may be found to wear a band. As an example, "Dick" Fischer, of Flushing, N. Y. reports standing on the curb, waiting for a bus for 15 minutes, when he chanced to glance in the gutter at his feet. Spying the remains of a Chickadee he turned it over with the toe of his shoe. It was found to be wearing one of his own bands, a bird that had entered his traps for the last time three months previously. If "Dick" had not happened to chance on it, this life history would have never been completed.

## NEWS FOR THE BANDERS

The press reports that the Fish & Wildlife Service will soon move headquarters to Chicago. No official confirmation has been received.

Howard P. Mahnken of Brooklyn, N.Y., reports a fine catch of Purple Grackles this spring. However, a banded bird seen around his station before he banded his first Grackle this season refuses to be caught as yet. This is a slight verification of the fact put forward by many banders, that these birds once caught are twice shy. There does seem a tendency among many individuals of this species to skip a year before entering the traps again.

On April 18th, Mr. Mahnken addressed a group of Brooklyn Girl Scouts on "Bird Banding". Doing a similar service for our cause, LeRoy Wilcox of Speonk, L.I., N.Y. spoke before the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia on January 22nd. His subject was "The Banding of Ospreys and Piping Plovers". On May 26th he will again give a lecture illustrated by his splendid slides before the Linnaean Society in the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Mr. Wilcox, in a recent letter, reports the recovery of numerous young Ospreys, banded by him in 1941, reported from Florida, Alabama, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York. He also reports seeing three Evening Grosbeaks near his station on April 8th.

George Dock, Jr. of Scarsdale, N.Y. has an illustrated banding article in the current Arbor Day number of the N. Y. State Educational Bulletin.

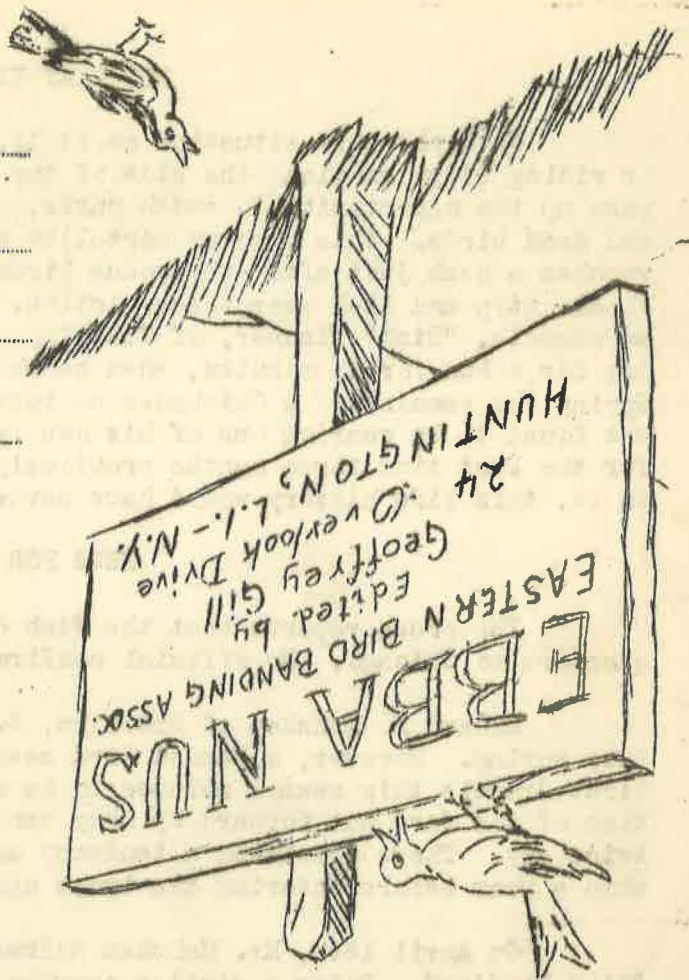
Joseph J. Hickey, of Madison, Wis. and a former Councillor of ours for the New York Region, has a paper in the current issue of the "Auk", on the Peregrine Falcon, which is worth the subscription price of the quarterly alone. His conclusions contain a special appeal to banders to work with these birds and assist them to survive. We heartily endorse his suggestion that the name "Duck Hawk" be dropped as it is generally a misnomer, and that this bird be called by its more appropriate and less harmful name, Peregrine Falcon.

Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N. J. points with consternation to the growing scarcity of rubber bands for the use of bird traps and expresses the thought that banders get busy finding a substitute. Ebba would welcome any suggestions and the only thought so far advanced is the use of old hack-saw blades.

Richard B. Fischer of Flushing, N.Y. is still another bander who has sent in an annual banding report for 1941. His report covers banding at Beaver Kill, N.Y. as well as at Flushing and lists the banding of 1,222 birds.



Prof. Dayton Storer  
New York State Museum  
Albany, New York



Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

Report a dead bird wearing a band, when found, to

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

"BUY DEFENSE BONDS"