



EBBA NUS

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

REACHING
OVER
375
BANDERS
EVERY MONTH

July, 1942

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

Vol. 5, No. 7

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"AND THE BIRDS STILL SING"

For this issue, "Ye Ed" had planned a message, pointing out that despite all the troubles in the world today, there are many things, perhaps some, that many of us take too much for granted, for which we can be thankful. Reminds us of a story supposed to have taken place in the Spring of 1918 in Flanders during the last war. A mud-stained and weary doughboy up in the front-lines, peers from his trench at dawn, scanning the battle-torn and devastated waste called "no-man's land". He is suddenly startled by the sight and sound of a thrush singing away from the broken stub of what was once a tree. Just what the doughboy said is immaterial. It quite possibly was ridicule and slightly profane, to cover his awe of the resilience of nature. The main point of the story is that he noted, despite all else "...that the birds still sing."

Today, tomorrow and in the dark hours ahead, when times may be pretty grim and our hearts down-cast, with our close interest in nature, we should always remember that flowers will bloom again, broken trees will put forth new branches, leaves will be just as green and "the birds still sing."

Yes, "Ye Ed", it seems could send you a message on such an inspiring subject, but he couldn't improve upon the thought expressed by Mrs. Zora Jensen of Chapel Hill, N.C., who recently sent us a report of the fine work she and her neighbor, Mrs. H. D. Crockford are doing. Mrs. Jensen writes:

"Was there ever a hobby more suited to these troublesome times -- no rubber, -- no gas, etc., -- and lastly no maid, for we are finding them, too, gone with the war. But the birds stay with us, and tie us back to something very stable in life. How grateful we are for them ---."

PREXY IS IN THE ARMY NOW

Maybe one of those Army pigeons let us in on the secret and then maybe not. However, we have learned on good authority that Dr. Worth is now a First Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps. At present he is in the dear old U.S.A. but expects to be stationed where he can use his knowledge of tropical medicine to good effect.

PLEASE WRITE

Selah Lester of East Hampton, L.I., N. Y., one of Long Island's intrepid banders, has suffered a fall and broken his back and hip. He will be in a plaster cast until October and of course out of banding until then. He is very interested in banding and would appreciate a letter from any bander on our favorite subject. It is hard for him to write so be understanding if acknowledgments are slow. He is especially interested in traps that will catch more than one bird at a time.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

A southern bander recently requested information as to how to catch Purple Martins roosting in the tree-tops. A Pennsylvania bander gives the following information which may be helpful: "Arthur C. Bent's new book, "Life Histories of N. A. Flycatchers, Larks and Swallows", just distributed, states in a footnote at the bottom of page 497, that Martins like the shells of hen's eggs, broken up into small pieces and that Martins will collect on the ground to get such food. It seems apparent that if this bait was used in or with a large drop-trap or top-opening trap under trees used as a roost or under Martin houses, it might solve the problem.

While thinking of Bent's "Life Histories of Birds", it might be timely to add that he would welcome any notes of interest a bander has in his files on any species of birds below Martins on the A.O.U. check-list for future books. Such notes should be sent to Arthur C. Bent, Taunton, Mass.

Henry P. Baily of Overbrook, Pa., writes in regard to the shortage of rubber bands for traps. He states that for several years he has been using size No. 20 spring wire, either copper or brass, with good results. Mr. Baily wraps this wire around a stick about the thickness of a lead pencil to make the spring and states that such will give good service for a year or more.

CAN ANY BANDER RECEIVE "EBBA NUS"?

Every so often a letter arrives from one of our members asking if some other bander, that they know personally or through correspondence, can subscribe to EBBA NUS. Usually the bander mentioned lives outside of the area reserved for the Eastern Association in the gentlemen's agreement set-up by the four regional associations. The answer is a most emphatic "yes". However, we sincerely urge them to join their own regional association first, if they have not already done so. If they already belong to the regional association in which they live and wish to receive the monthly copies of our news-letter in addition, they can become members of Eastern at the very reasonable rate of \$1 per year, regardless of where they reside.

We are happy and proud to state that there are many banders who belong to a regional banding association in their own area, as well as the Eastern Association. They have continued a dual membership for years, believing that at the cost of \$1, it is worth-while to receive the monthly EBBA NUS.

On the other hand, Eastern's News-letter is published, not for the assistance of a certain group of banders, but for the benefit of banding as a whole. Whether the bander lives in your home town or in Timbuctoo, we feel we should help him and sustain him in the hobby in every way we can. We think that no matter where a bander is located, he has problems, experiences and interests in common with every other bander. It is our duty, regardless of whether a bander specializes in hawks, shore birds, swifts or just garden birds, to make each issue of EBBA NUS as full of interest, help and entertainment for every bander as we possibly can.

By all means, a bander anywhere can subscribe to our news-letter, but their first loyalty and support belongs in their own area. We hope, most urgently, that if they are not a member of their own association, they will join and then join us. All are welcome.

It might be added in fairness to the many fine supporters of Eastern that we are practical enough to insist that everyone receiving EBBA NUS must be in good standing with our Treasurer.

NEWS FROM A BANDER IN PANAMA

A long interesting letter from Tom Imhof, now serving Uncle Sam with the armed forces down Panama way, contains a wealth of information on the bird life he is meeting and some inside information on the Panamanian National Museum. The letter consists of three closely written typewritten pages. It is so entertaining that we wish it were possible to publish it in its entirety. A lack of space forces us to pick just a few passages to convey a general idea of the possibilities for banding at the canal.

Mr. Imhof now has his bands with him, but as yet, no time for trapping. He writes: "My banding down here has been practically negligible; a total of 3, all by accident. My first bird was a Ground Dove caught by the Colonel's son in March. I took a blood smear on it and a few Hemogregarines were found. The second bird was a Panamanian House Wren that flew in the barracks. These are similar to the American House Wren in everything, even song. The third bird was a Laughing Gull. One of the boys caught this immature bird on the beach with his feathers so wet that it couldn't fly. Kept overnight and banded, next morning he flew several hundred yards when released...."

"The list of species I have seen down here now numbers 137 and I expect to top 200 in six months time although the rainy season is now beginning. Among the American birds seen recently are White Ibis, Water-Turkey, Green Heron and Spotted Sandpiper. During the last week in May I saw Osprey, Semi-palmated Plover, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone and Louisiana Water-Thrushes were around quite late. I saw an Olive-backed Thrush on Apr. 17 at Barro Colorado. On the same day I saw quite a flight of Barn Swallows cross Gatun Lake and was able to pick out 5 or 6 Bank Swallows in the flock."

"About June 1st I went up the Rio Chagres in a dugout and saw Osprey, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Egret, Little Blues in all phases of development, Water-Turkey, both Mexican and Pied-billed Grebe and about 40 Masked Ducks. A more recent trip yielded 2 Louisiana Herons and 2 Great Blues are still around. Apparently more birds from the States breed down here than is supposed or else I am seeing a lot of non-breeding birds."

"While down here I received word that another of my Piping Plover has been recovered. I have banded about 50 of these birds, mostly at Jones Beach, N.Y. in '39 and at Old Mill, N. Y. in '41. One of these Plovers banded by me in July '39 was caught by LeRoy Wilcox in May or June '41 on a nest with 4 eggs at the Eastern end of Shinnecock Bay, about 45 miles due east of Oak Island, where it was banded as a baby. Another bird banded in the same month and place was picked up wounded on Hunting Island, Beaufort County, S.C. this March."

Ebba wishes to encourage members to write to banders in the service. We know that they will appreciate all such letters. Any of our members desiring the address of any bander now serving Uncle Sam may obtain the desired information from "Ye Ed". Won't you write?

A FIVE YEAR OLD PURPLE FINCH

A Purple Finch banded at Northeast Harbor, Maine, Aug. 22, '37 by Henry P. Baily of Overbrook, Pa. has been recaptured by Mrs. Effie Anthony at Great Head, Bar Harbor, Maine. The record from Great Head shows that it was taken in Aug. '38 and recorded as a male. Taken in Apr. '39 it was recorded as a red male and it repeated in May and June of that year. In 1940 it was retaken in May and June 4 times. In 1941 it was taken in May, June and Aug. In 1942 it has entered the traps in May and June so far. Banded in 1937 this bird is at least 5 years old and if an old bird when banded, older.

ARE BIRDS BEING POISONED?

A New York State bander, intrigued by the report of a recovery of two different species of birds at the same place, same date and under the same circumstances, "Found dead on lawn", was curious enough to investigate. It seems that the Superintendent of a small estate discovered these banded birds and very reluctantly gave as his opinion the following thought. "Most of the estates hereabouts spray their trees and shrubbery. This year, due to the frequent rains, spraying has been very heavy. Birds eat insects coated with this poison, then go to the bird bath in the middle of the lawn and shortly afterwards die, the poison acting similar to a commercial rat poison widely used." The reluctance on the part of the Superintendent seemed to arise from the fact that such happenings might reach the ears of his superiors and trouble arise. The veracity of the report is somewhat clouded by the fact that this man claims he often finds Red-headed Woodpeckers dead on the lawn, apparently from the same cause. This species is seldom seen in the area. He also reported one band taken from a Starling when records show it was placed on a Blue Jay.

"Ye Ed" has heard of such poisoning of birds before and has also heard that the amount of poison a bird can take into its system is very great - much greater in proportion than the amount that can be eaten by a human without any harmful effects. Comments on this matter would be greatly appreciated by EBBA NUS from any bander having first-hand information.

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

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Robert Ungemah of White Plains, N.Y., was the motivating force behind an editorial in 12 Westchester newspapers recently, stressing the care of young birds and asking folk to report all banded birds found to him. Nice publicity. Within a week, Mr. Ungemah received several telephone calls and one or two letters.

A female Baltimore Oriole banded by B. S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J., July 3, '39, was found dead by one of his neighbors in May of this year. Returns or recoveries of this species don't appear to be any too frequent.

The Pan-American Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation, desiring to encourage people in South and Central America to become better acquainted with the inter-continental migrations of birds in the Western Hemisphere, have a pamphlet on this subject written by F. C. Lincoln and printed in both Spanish and English. This article relates the banding work being done in United States and points out the possibilities of finding a banded bird in the countries of our southern neighbors. A limited number of them can be obtained by any bander with the compliments of the committee, if the bander can put them to good use. Address your request to T. Gilbert Pearson, in care of the committee at 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Two banders in different parts of New York State request help with the perennial cat problem. In both cases their traps are being raided by well-fed house pets that are wary of cat traps. EBBA realizes that several members will immediately shoot the cat, but steps of such a final nature can not always be taken. Fencing is awkward but seems the only answer. Any bander who knows a better way to control cats please write.

Illustrating one of the reasons for EBBA NUS is a letter recently received from a bander stating for several years he has been using a gathering cage similar to the 2-in-1 gathering cage shown in the June issue. Our re-action is to congratulate the bander and point out that there are probably many banders who have invented some little gadget or a certain way of banding that others would like to know about. Even though it may seem commonplace to you, it may be very helpful to someone else. Please let others know through EBBA NUS.

WE MUST REDUCE OUR STOCK PILE

Due to a lack of storage space, it is necessary for our association to reduce the amount of printed matter and a large quantity of back numbers of the "NUS" held in reserve for requests from our members. At the present time there is on hand a large stock of single page articles, informally written on numerous subjects pertaining to bird banding which have appeared from time to time in previous issues. Some of these articles are two or three years old, but contain timely advice. Present plans call for reducing this supply to ten of any article and turning over the balance as scrap paper to a local salvage committee.

However, since there may be some members who would like copies of these interesting articles, we have decided to delay action for one month and are listing the material available below. Anyone, whether they are a member of our association or of Inland may procure such copies as they desire by sending their request to the Editor with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Three cents postage will cover the cost of mailing any two articles. If more are desired please enclose sufficient postage.

At the same time it should be mentioned that we have a considerable number of back issues of EBBA NUS for the last three years. Issues in the first two volumes are exhausted and since we receive a request for them occasionally we would like to obtain any of such numbers any banders has to spare. Of the issues published in the past three years, some particular numbers have almost disappeared from our shelves, but we will do our utmost to fill all demands. In requesting back numbers we ask the members to enclose 5¢ in postage stamps for each issue desired.

Here is the list of articles which may be of interest to you: Please order articles by number and back numbers by the month and year.

- 1 - The Sokri Hawk Trap, By George Dock, Jr.
- 2 - A Banding Exhibit - Easy to make and easily moved.
- 3 - Fishing For Ducks in Florida, by Major George D. Robinson
- 4 - Tips for the Amateur Speaker
- 5 - Mending Broken Bones of Birds, by E. S. Griscom
- 6 - The Fabian V-Tunnel Trap - The 1941 Trap Sensation
- 7 - The Brenckle Water-Drip Trap - How to make it
- 8 - The Pedersen Combination Pull String Trap
- 9 - A System of Banding Record Keeping
- 10- Perches for Top-Opening Traps

Please remember that our files are cramped for space, our postage budget is limited, and send your requests early. This material will become so much scrap paper within thirty days unless requested.

Bander John McMahon of Harrisburg, Pa. is now a Lieutenant in our Navy. We just hope that with his trapping experience, he can think up some sort of a "right smart trap for the Japs".

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



"I am of
interest to the Government
and all banders because
I wear a band and am
now registered at
Washington, D.C."



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