

# EBBA NUS

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

REACHING  
OVER  
**375**  
BANDERS  
EVERY MONTH

April, 1943

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

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## OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities come at unexpected times for ornithologists to influence people to protect birds. Such opportunities should never be overlooked.

Some people are often thoughtless agents of destruction to birds, nature's control on rodents and insects which damage farm crops. Farmers and thoughtless boys need to understand that birds are helpful to our war effort in the production of food. They should be told how to protect them. Farm people, in many instances, need friendly guidance and advice, not just generalizations of the value of birds, but a helping and understanding hand.

Woodpeckers eat enormous numbers of codling moths, so destructive to apples. Even during the winter, Downy Woodpeckers are continually searching out codling-moth grubs. Why use them for a target on which to try out a new B-B gun? Chickadees live on canker-worms, tent caterpillars and plant lice. To support these birds, dead trees or limbs to furnish places for nesting holes should be left in an orchard. Not all dead wood in the wood-lot or the orchard should be removed as is so commonly done. Chickadees will also nest in properly built boxes placed out of the reach of cats and boys and at some distance from an area where House Wrens hold sway.

Robins are particularly fond of caterpillars, wire-worms and destroy many ants. Earthworms form only a part of their diet and cherries but a fraction. According to the researches of Folsom, insects form over 90 per cent of the diet of Catbirds, Thrashers, Kingbirds, Bluebirds, Chickadees, Wrens, Warblers and Orioles. It is the nests of these birds which are so frequently disturbed by small boys.

The shotgun is the chief menace of Crows, Blue Jays, Hawks and Owls and needs legal curbing plus voluntary abating. While the chief diet of hawks and owls are mice and harmful insects, crows and jays destroy large quantities of locusts, hence all are much more valuable from an economic standpoint, than they are as a nuisance. The corn a farmer loses by mice far out values the price of a young chicken or two.

Swallows and Chimney Swifts are among the most valuable of insectivorous birds, yet farmers and their sons destroy their nests, especially in barns and by hauling sand from banks when swallows are nesting. The useful Phoebe suffers a similar fate by the destruction of a nest which is needed for future seasons.

The unmanaged cat is a particular detriment to the farmer and needs curbing and complete control.

Let us therefore resolve that the coming crops of foodstuffs, so vital to the world today, shall not suffer, because some unthinking human within our ken, has destroyed the birds, the farmers most helpful friends.

HAROLD B. WOOD, M.D.



## AN INTERESTING RECOVERY AND TWO RETURNS

Dr. C. Brooke Worth recently received a report of the recovery of a 9 year old Osprey, the oldest one of 70 juvenals he has banded. The Osprey was banded by him as a young bird on July 27, 1933 at Cape May Court House, N.J. and was captured and the band removed in the summer of 1942 at North Harlowe, N.C., by Hugh Fisher of 1401 Irving St., N.E., Washington, D.C.

Henry Ahrenhold, 3rd, of Manhasset, L.I., N.Y., who operates a sub-station of the Manhasset Bird Banding Club, sponsored by Jesse V. Miller, reports the return of a Mourning Dove on February 12th, 1943. This dove banded at the High School, about a mile from the place of recapture, was banded on the 8th of April, 1942. When re-caught it was alone. The weather was mild but next day it snowed and the temperature took a severe drop three days later.

Another Mourning Dove banded at Huntington, about 20 miles east of Manhasset, on April 18th, 1942, returned to the Huntington station on March 4th, 1943. Two doves visited the station on the day previous and the banded bird was caught next morning. The temperature was 10 above zero. Of the few doves banded at both these stations, it is interesting to note that the first birds of this species to be caught at both stations were birds banded the year before.

## YOUTH LENDS A HAND

Charles J. Spiker of Branchport, N.Y. writes that Karl Lerch, 8 year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Lerch of nearby Penn Yan, took a sample trap and some bands to his room at school and gave a talk on banding to his school-mates. Within a week he had publicized banding in all the other grades and talked before the High School science classes. - Our congratulations to Karl. Mr. and Mrs. Lerch must be very proud of him and all banders owe him a great big vote of thanks. School pupils, from past experience, are a class of people who report a large number of recoveries. Situated as this school is, in an area where several banders are active within twenty miles of each other, it is thought that Karl's talks will be instrumental in bringing to light many recoveries in this area.

## WINTER WARBLER BANDING IN N.J.

Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. writes, "Last fall when I noticed there were practically no Bayberries, I immediately decided we'd have no Myrtle Warblers through the winter, to speak of. Strange to say, we've probably had more Myrtles in the traps than in any previous winter."

"We've banded 1, 2 or 3 on an average, every few days during the greater part of the winter, occasionally as many as 5 a day.

"We used to find repeating by Myrtles quite rare. For the past several years such repeats have been commonplace. This winter such repeats have been especially prevalent.

"On February 7th we caught a Myrtle, banded 140-5535, twice, and realized that it was not one of our birds. On Feb. 10th, Mr. Lincoln advised us that the band had been issued to William M. Johnson of Knoxville, Tenn., but the report of its use had not been received. We've had no reply from Mr. Johnson to date (Mar. 17th) as to the banding data, so the apparently rather interesting recovery record remains incomplete."

On March 21st Mr. Bowdish broke all records by getting ten new Myrtles.



## THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CROWS AND SONG BIRDS

By Stanley Grierson, Katonah, N. Y.

Editor's Note: This is the third of a series of articles by Mr. Grierson on the care of injured birds that may come into the hands of a bander. The first article concerning Herons and Gulls appeared in November 1942; the second article about Hawks and Owls appeared in the December issue.

"I feel that I still have a great deal to learn about injured song birds. Many that are brought to me are so badly injured by cars and cats, that the only thing to do is to put them out of their misery. Even those which seem fine one minute, suddenly change and die the next, for no visual reason. However, I shall be glad to tell what I have learned thus far.

"Crows will eat anything and everything in the way of scraps, although some show a preference for certain things. Most crows relish cheese, bits of meat, fruit and vegetables, either cooked or raw. They make intelligent pets and are easily trained. It is difficult to prevent most crows from picking open the bandages on broken wings or legs.

"Song birds are much more difficult to keep alive any length of time and in many cases the broken bones of small birds are almost impossible to set.

"Bits of chopped beef, bread crumbs, meal worms, small pieces of earth worms and hard boiled egg seem the most satisfactory foods to give song birds until they are able to care for themselves. (Seed-eaters, of course should be given mixed bird seed.) Soft foods are best fed to the bird on the end of a tooth-pick, but if the bird is too young or refuses to eat, it will be necessary to open the mouth gently, for the mouths of young birds are very sensitive, and place the food far down the throat. Young birds, especially, must be fed very often. Vary the diet, unless the bird refuses certain things. Be careful of giving a young bird water. They need only a few drops, very carefully administered at long intervals. Young birds must be kept warm. Insectivorous species, such as Chimney Swifts are next to impossible to keep alive. Don't feel discouraged if you have done everything possible, only to have the bird die.

"The writer succeeded in keeping a Barn Swallow alive for 6 weeks on bits of chopped beef and meal worms. It had been mauled by a cat and could not fly. An injured Kingbird has been kept alive for ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS on bits of cheese, meat, crumbs, fruit, vegetables, fish, peanut butter and dead flies in season.

"Remember, all small birds require grit or gravel."

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Prof. Clifton F. Hodge of Clark University, Worcester, Mass. wrote a text book for schools in 1902 entitled "Nature Study and Life" which contains two very interesting chapters on the above subject. The chapters are entitled, "Practical Domestication of Our Wild Birds" and "Taming and Feeding Birds". Prof. Hodge wrote with a great deal of understanding and brings out many points seldom touched upon in the care and training of young birds by their own parents, just after the young have left the nest.

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Stanley Grierson terminated his studies at Columbia University early in February and left for camp on March 12th. Wherever he is stationed he promises us to keep us posted on his bird neighbors. We all join in wishing him good health, good luck, and a safe return.



## NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

Responding to an inquiry as to "How do you do it?" Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. gives us some information on the manner in which he traps so many Myrtle Warblers. "Myrtle winter banding here has been inconsequential and casual prior to this year. Have several shelves about 5 or 5½ feet from ground on tree trunks, on which small false-bottom traps are set, also Lurvey single and double and Western Bird Banding Traps, 3 sizes. Baited with small chopped suet and pulverized dry white bread crusts. The above take most of our winter Myrtles. Of course in season the drip traps, especially Brenkel 8 and Keahon Garland are the real stuff."

Charles J. Spiker of Branchport, N.Y. reports that the Meadowlarks mentioned by him in an earlier issue disappeared on Jan. 13th, just a week after he finally succeeded in banding the first one. At the time of their disappearance the small flock had been reduced to 2 birds. Mr. Spiker is now employed in a war factory and works on the night shift. This does not conflict with his banding for he sets his traps when he comes home, then sleeps, gets up and carries on his banding work until he goes to work again.

Ralph E. Wetzel of Boiling Springs, Pa. has submitted a report of his banding from Dec. 1941 to Jan. 1, 1943. In this period he has banded 662 birds of 17 species. Starling with 503, heads his list, with Purple Grackle next with 65 and Slate Colored Junco next with 27. Of the 65 Purple Grackles banded in '42, two have already returned on March 18th. These were both caught together in a drop trap and one was first banded Apr. 26, '42 and the other July 26, '42. Mr. Wetzel caught a Bronz Grackle, his first, on Dec. 20, 1942 and a Purple Grackle on Jan. 3, 1943 which are both late dates. He states that there have been practically no Chickadees this winter while they were plentiful last winter. His only White Throat banded in 1942 returned this winter - a return of 100%! "Whenever possible", Mr. Wetzel writes, "I allow young people to help me. That makes new friends for our birds. - Also it meant a Screech Owl for me. One young lad brought me an immature owl late last summer. He had found it under a tree." EBBA heartily endorses this idea. Mr. Wetzel has been banding since Dec. 1940 and has banded a grand total of 775. He says that he has reached the stage where he knows he has a lot to learn. It is a thrill to experience new knowledge about birds. "I'm afraid", he writes, "and glad too, that I now have a life-time hobby."

Due to war conditions, Mrs. J. Franklin Anthony, Sr., of Bar Harbor, Me., has been unable to carry on her usual banding work this winter. She writes, "My bird work has been stopped since last Fall, altho someone else has kept the birds fed all winter, (at her former home). I have lost out on all my trapping of my old chickadees with their interesting returns, many of them six, seven and even eight years old. It is a great disappointment to me, but I have a son in the service, so no sacrifice is too great to help us to victory."

Richard B. Fischer of Flushing, L.I., N.Y. is now teaching natural sciences at the Malverne High School and EBBA will bet that he will soon be having his pupils report any banded birds they find to him.

Don't forget, EBBA has for loan, a contraption that will change any ordinary bird house into an automatic trap. Fine for catching adults in a bird house, but hard to describe in a drawing, hence the offer to loan the equipment so any bander can copy it. Please send postage.

Dayton Murphy of Wellington, Ontario, a bander who closely seconded the fine work of Jack Miner of Canada Goose fame, will be the subject of a feature story in "Pennsylvania Game News" very shortly.



## NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

Howard H. Krug of Chesley, Ontario, sends us the data on his third Herring Gull recovered in Mexico. Banded by him as a juvenile bird at Liverance Island, Lake Huron, near Howdenville, on June 27, 1940, it was shot Jan. 5, 1941 at Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas, Mexico and reported by Jose Garcia A. This place is difficult to locate on the map, but is believed to be somewhat north of Tampico.

Herbert Houston, formerly of Wayne, Pa., is now an Aviation Cadet at Nashville, Tenn. He likes the Army Life very much and hopes to visit some banding stations in the vicinity of his camp. Like all the men in the service he would like to receive some letters. His complete Army address can be supplied on request to the Editor.

Miss Marion A. Boggs of Waynesville, N.C. writes that she is surprised that White-throats are considered unusual "returners". In her locality they give a goodly number of returns and she has recorded seven such cases in the past year. "As winter banding is very poor here", she writes, "this is a good record...Perhaps the difference between my station and other stations is due to the fact that I am in the mountains, away from the flyways and the birds I band are regular winter residents."

Two isolated cases do not make an epidemic - Yet readers will remember the item in Feb. EBBA NUS concerning an immature Red-shouldered Hawk that came into the hands of George Dock, Jr. in New York. Now, it appears that a young lad in Dr. Wood's neighborhood in Harrisburg, Pa. captured another immature Red-shoulder late in February. The hawk, caught by hand, according to the boy, was supposed to have had a fight with a dog. Brought to Dr. Wood, no injury could be found, but it had many lice, particularly in the area on the back of its neck. These were disposed of, but within a few days the hawk died. Death believed to have been caused by pneumonia and starvation.

W. M. Davidson of Takoma Park, Md. has recently heard from Washington that a Blue Jay banded by him at Beltsville, Md. on Jan. 15, 1942 was found dead on June 17, 1942 at St. Davids, Pa. He also reports that he trapped his usual two dozen or so, new Blue Jays late in February this year.

John B. Lewis, Field Naturalist of the Seward Forest, University of Virginia, Triplett, Va., would like to know of any banders located near him, closer than Richmond or Norfolk. Triplett, Va. is located in the southeast corner of Brunswick County, about 5 miles north of the N.C. State line and 17 miles southwest of Emporia. Mr. Lewis does not band himself, but expects to when he retires. He is now in his early seventies and considering the vigor and enthusiasm with which he writes us, we are confident that he will be one of us about twenty years hence.

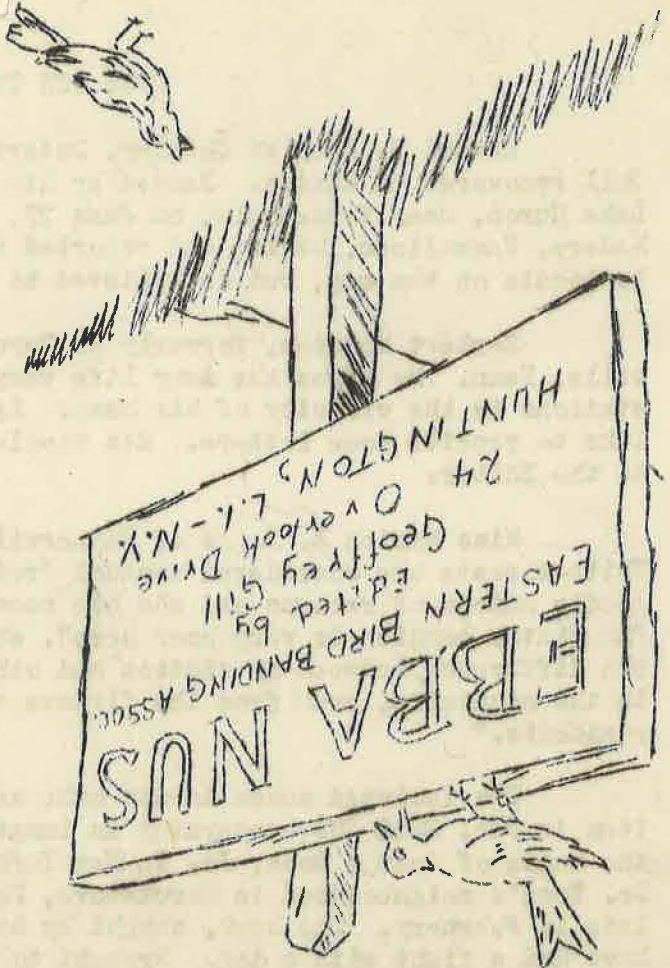
All of us will be sorry to hear that Carl A. A. Pedersen of Woodcliff, N.J. passed away on Feb. 4th, after a three-week illness. Mr. Pedersen was a fine bander, a splendid member and a very good correspondent of EBBA.

Sergeant Thomas Imhoff, after serving overseas for some time, will have returned to America by the time members read this item. He has returned to take a three month's course at the Chemical Warfare School.

Paul Jensen of Wayne, Pa. is now a member of the Army at a Base Weather Station of a flying field in Texas. (Complete and definite addresses are always omitted regarding any bander in the service on general principles. Any member can obtain a complete address from the editor upon request.)



ALBANY, NEW YORK  
New York State Museum  
Prof. Dayton Stoner



*Prof. 4/20/43*



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REPORT A DEAD BIRD WEARING A BAND, WHEN FOUND, TO  
Fish & Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C.

"BUY WAR SAVINGS STAMPS AND BONDS"

