

Ebba Nus



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

REACHING
OVER
375
BANDERS
EVERY MONTH

June, 1943

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

No.6, Vol.6

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BANDING IN THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

In these days of Victory Gardens, everyone is familiar with a garden hose and their adjustable nozzles. For no other reason than just whimsy, we are going to compare the northward flight of migrants this spring, along the Atlantic Coast, to a garden hose. It will be recalled that the first week of May and the preceding weeks were wet and cold. Possibly this has some bearing on the comparison.

It is commonly believed that bird migration follows coast lines and waterways. Taking the valley of the Delaware from Philadelphia to Trenton, N. J. as the western side of the hose and as the eastern side, the Atlantic Coast, we drop the nozzle of the hose about 20 miles east of Trenton and let the water (or birds) spray out from this spot. By looking at the sketch elsewhere in this issue, it will be seen that the nozzle points at New York City. If birds do follow valleys and shore lines, they would cross Staten Island and either follow the Hudson north or hop from Staten Island to the southwestern tip of Long Island, cross Long Island in a northeasterly direction and fly up into New England. Certainly some such route seems plausible. It is of interest to tabulate the catch at 5 active stations in the area covered by this spray during May, 1943.

It will be noted that a late flight of White-throats was taken at most of the stations, particularly in the western half of the area considered. In direct contrast to this movement is the catch of Grackles and Blue Jays which seems to be more apparent at the eastern stations. George Dock, Jr. of Scarsdale, N. Y. writes: "The number of Blue Jay returns was by far the largest I have ever had and coincided with a real invasion of new Blue Jays, as indicated by the large number banded in a single month. Since most of these Blue Jays that returned were birds that I banded as juveniles a year ago, I still go along with the theory that Jays are definitely migratory as young birds".

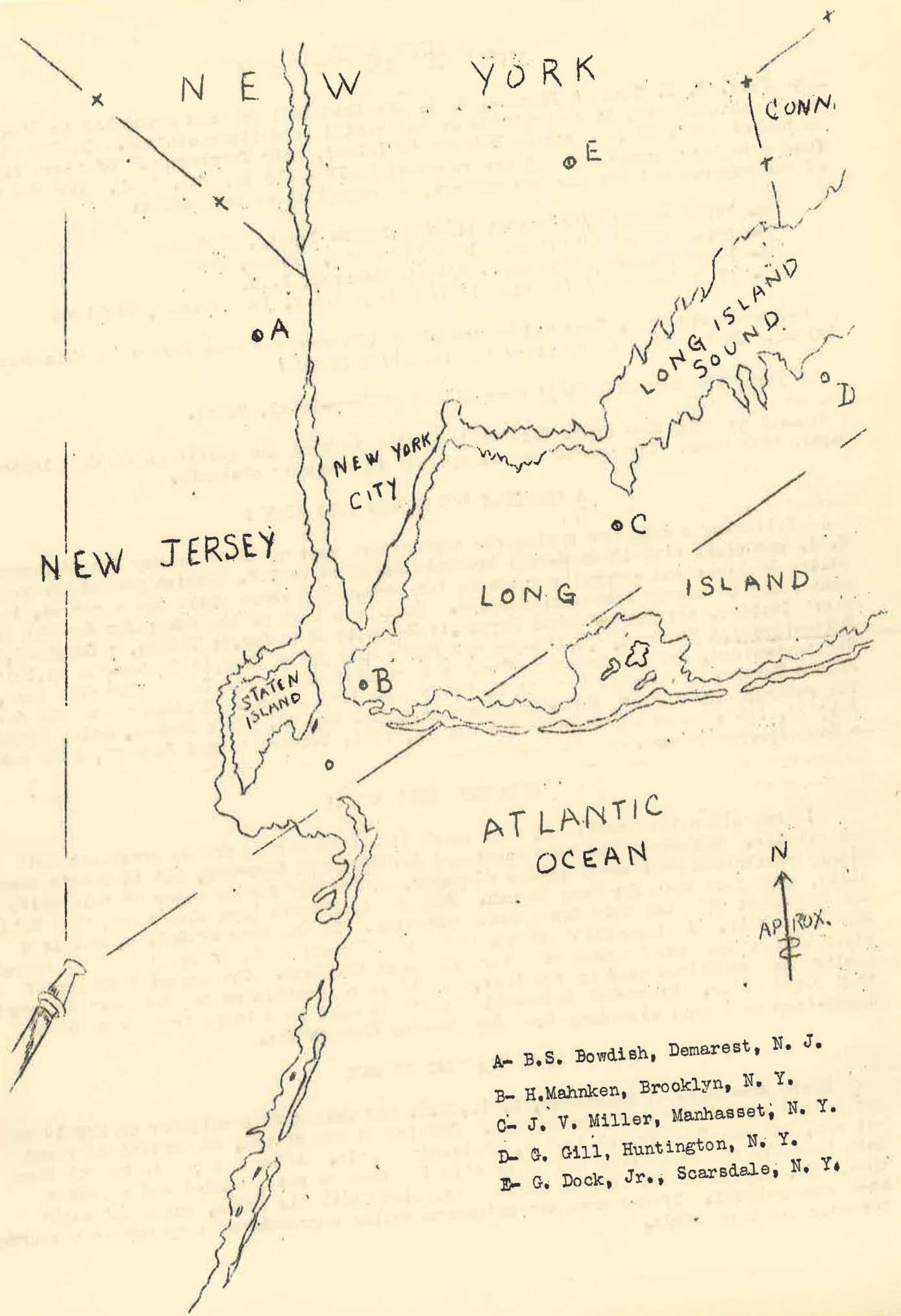
In comparing these stations allowances must be made for the number of traps and the time spent in operating them. Some stations are active every day and others are only operated on week-ends and late afternoons. The general area, such as open plains, residential or woodland areas would also influence the catch.

A study of this tabulation, particularly when compared with your own catch at your station will reveal many interesting points. EBBA would like to have comments on this tabulation and if possible, plan other such groupings from other areas containing several active banding stations.

TABULATION OF NEW BIRDS BANDED AND RETURNS

June - 1943

SPECIES	NEW BIRDS					RETURNS				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
Robin	4	4	7	6	3	1	2		1	
Wood Thrush	7		2						1	
Olive-b Thrush	8			1						
Veery	2									
Brown Thrasher	4	5	8	8	1	1	1	1	5	
Catbird	52	5	19	36	24	4			13	3
Towhee	10	7	6	3	1	3		3	3	
Song Sparrow	1	2	3	1		2		1		
White-throated Sp.	55	2	4		9					
Chipping Sp.			1	1						
Field Sp.				1	1					
Swamp Sp.	1				4					
White-crowned Sp.	1				2					
Slate-colored Junco	2									
Cardinal	2									
Rose-breasted Grosb.	2				2					
Indigo Bunting	3									
Scarlet Tanager	2									
Cowbird			13	1				1		
Baltimore Oriole				8	7					1
Red-wing Blackbird			4							
Starling				4						
Blue Jay	7	2	17	23	31			2	7	11
Myrtle Warbler	2			2	3					
Nashville Warbler				3						
Blue-wing Warbler	1			5		1				
Magnolia Warbler	7			1	7					
Black & White W.	1			1						
Yellow Warbler	1									
Golder-wing Warbler	1									
Black-throated Blue	4									
Blackpoll Warbler	3				7					
Blackburnian W.					3					
Connecticut Warbler	1									
Redstart	4									
Canada Warbler	6				5					
Mourning Warbler	1									
Parula Warbler	4				2					
Chestnut-sided W.	6				4					
N. Water Thrush					3					
Ovenbird			3							
Red-eyed Vireo					1					
House Wren	2			1	1				2	1
Flicker			1							
Mourning Dove			3		9			1		1
Purple Grackle			14	46	16				5	1
Black-cap Chickadee						1				
Northern Y. Throat	22			1	5					
TOTAL	229	27	105	154	151	13	3	9	37	18



- A- B.S. Bowdish, Demarest, N. J.
- B- H. Mahnken, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- C- J. V. Miller, Manhasset, N. Y.
- D- G. Gill, Huntington, N. Y.
- E- G. Dock, Jr., Scarsdale, N. Y.

LITTLE BLUE HERON RECOVERIES

Papers to him → Prof. R. E. Ware of Clemson, S. C. was told that to band young Little Blue Herons was a waste of time as the returns or recoveries were disappointing. On June 5, 1938 he banded about 50 in nests on Sullivan's Island, near Charleston. Of these birds four were later recovered and are reported in EBBA NUS for Feb. 1941. For the sake of the records and for the new members, we repeat these recoveries:

38-678166 Banded 6/5/38 shot 11/5/39 Ogemaw County, Michigan
38-678146 Banded 6/5/38 shot 10/26/38 Banta, Havana, Cuba
38-678497 Banded 6/5/38 capt. 8/15/38 Central, S. C.
38-678129 Banded 6/5/38 shot 10/7/39 Iron River, Iron County, Michigan

Previously Prof. Ware had banded about 100 more the year before on this same island. On May 14th he received the following notice:

35-525820 banded 5/29/37 shot 2/4/43 at Jean-Robel, Haiti.

Let us hope that Prof. Ware will be able to band the nestlings at this island again this year. Transportation at present is the only obstacle.

A BRECKLE "8" SHIFTS INTO HIGH !

Following a cold wet spring the temperature went up to 94 on May 8th at Demarest, N. J. and right with it an 8-cell breckle operated by B.S. Bowdish proved its merits taking 36 birds and several returns in two days. The score while not a record, is what might be termed very satisfactory. Here is a list of the take; for May 8th and 9th: Catbird, 11; Olive-backed Thrush, 1; Veery, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Towhee, 2; Cardinal, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; House Wren, 1; Golden-winged, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Myrtle, Magnolia Warbler 1 each, Redstart and Yellow Throat 1 each, Parula Warbler 2; Scarlet Tanager 2, (both beautiful males). Besides these the following returns were taken: Blue-wing warbler banded May 30, 1940; Towhee, male, banded July 27, 1940; Brown Thrasher banded May 31, 1941; Catbird banded June 25, 1942 and a Song Sparrow return.

EVER TRY THESE BAITES?

It has often been mentioned that short pieces of string are an excellent bait for orioles. Horsehair has been mentioned for Chipping Sparrows, but it hasn't been widely publicized that small strips of paper, preferably tissue paper or thin white cloth, is a good bait for Wood Thrush. Recent experiments have also shown that Robins and Blue Jays will use this for nesting material. In the case of Robins, mud is a sure fire bait. An inspection of nesting material used by other species might reveal other things than can be used as a lure for nest builders. The breast feathers of poultry are sometimes used by swallows, but it is a question as to what sort of traps they would enter. Discarded snake-skins could be used in a large traps such as a house-trap or a good size drop trap for Crested Flycatchers.

A DOUBLE PLAY BY HAND

Papers to him → Henry Ahrenhold of Manhasset, L. I., N.Y. was called by a neighbor on May 14 to get a bird out of her small greenhouse. Jumping at the chance, on arrival he found not one, but two Wood Thrush inside, obviously a pair. After a struggle he got them both into his gathering cage and after allowing them to rest, banded and released them. Mr. Ahrenhold was able to catch these birds with his hands, but a net might have been helpful. If you have any neighbors owning a greenhouse they may be a source for catching more birds.

WE SEE BY THE PAPERS

To those skeptics who doubt wild birds place in the country's war economy, may we point to an Associated Press dispatch, dated May 4, from Williamsburg, Va. This item reports a Barred Owl living in a hollow tree near the home of R. A. Rose of Bypass Rd., that has hatched two sets of chicken eggs and is now sitting on her third set. EBBA could make several comments, but prefers to let each bander supply his own.

The May issue of the "Reader's Digest" contains a condensed version of an article which appeared in the April issue of Nature Magazine, entitled "The Lord's Tiny Poultry", by William Byron Mowery. We recommend the reading of this to all banders for the hints it contains on the rearing of waifs and cripples of the bird world.

In the 74th annual report of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y., recently made public, all banders will fervently applaud and agree with these paragraphs:

"Annually, America spends more wealth per capita on education than any other nation in the world. What concerns the museum is the rigidity, conservatism and narrowness of a system which does not take in the natural sciences as an essential part."

"We, at the museum, through contacts with hundreds of thousands of visitors, have become concerned over the general ignorance about nature and man. In this ignorance many misconceptions which are among the fundamental causes of our present difficulties take root."

"My Reader" a little school newspaper published in Pa. and distributed throughout thousands of primary grades in the schools of the northeast contains occasional articles on birdlife. The Nov. 10, 1942 issue contains a little write-up on woodpeckers and is illustrated by a photo of a Downy Woodpecker. The interesting thing about the picture is that the Downy definitely wears a band. No mention is made of banding in the article which is regretted as the youngsters often find banded birds and the question arises, "What bander took the photograph?"

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

More evidence that male Towhees dominate in spring banding is supplied by Howard P. Mahnken of Brooklyn, N. Y. (This fact has been suggested in many previous issues.) Mr. Mahnken writes that the first 7 Towhees banded by him this year, in late April and early May consisted of 6 males and a female. At "Ye Editor's" station some 30 miles west of Mahnken his first 2 were males; one a return from last year.

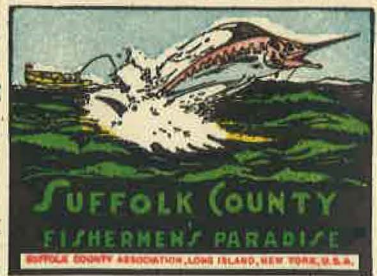
Mrs. Florence K. Daley of Bowie, Texas, who has banded more than 10,000 birds at her summer home in the Catskill Mts., was the featured speaker at a meeting of "Thursday Club" of Bowie. Her subject was a review of the banding she has done in the last 18 years. The talk was followed up with some nice publicity in the "Bowie News". Mrs. Daley expects to return north this summer and take up her activities in banding again.

Air Cadet Herbert A. Houston, formerly of West Chester, Pa. has completed his pre-flight training and is now flying. When last heard from he was at an air base in California but expected to move on. One of his instructors, Dr. John Garth, is an ornithologist, so that pupil and teacher had additional interests in common besides flying.

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



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562 P. D. & R.



"BUY WAR SAVINGS STAMPS AND BONDS"