

EBBA NEWS



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

REACHING
OVER
375
BANDERS
EVERY MONTH

May, 1944

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

Vol. 7, No. 5

President Pro Tem: Dr. H. B. Wood, 3016 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, Pa.
Secretary: Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Rd., Ardmore, Pa.
Treasurer: Robert K. Ungemah, 10 Jackson Ave., White Plains, N. Y.
Editor: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Dr., Huntington, L. I., N. Y.

*Recd. about
May 20-1944*

BANDING AROUND ROUND OAK, GEORGIA

Raymond J. Fleetwood of Round Oak, Ga. writes that he has made a good start on his Bluebird banding campaign and expects to break all previous records. He now has 96 nesting boxes put up and 76 of them are occupied, (Apr. 30). He has counted 220 eggs and 91 young in the boxes so far and has already banded 44 Bluebirds, mostly young. EBBA sent him one of the "contraptions" that fits in a nesting box and traps adult birds. Mr. Fleetwood has made 5 of these and so far he has trapped 6 adult Bluebirds and 4 returns, 2 Brown-headed Nuthatches and 2 Chickadees. This "gadget" was sent us by Edwin Mason, now of Washington, and we are glad to hear it works in Georgia as well as we found it worked on Long Island, N. Y.

Up to Nov. 1, '43 Mr. Fleetwood banded 52 White-throated Sparrows and got 5 returns or almost 10 percent. He reports one or two still around his station on May 1st. Chipping Sparrows, he says, did not linger around his traps as they have done in former years and consequently he did not get as many. He banded 34 this winter and caught 17 returns.

His Fabian traps still continue to do good work. One day in February, he was surprised to find 10 Bob White in one, but this wasn't the entire covey because a few days later he caught 3 more. Many of these birds repeated again in March. In these same traps he also took 5 Mourning Doves during April.

During the winter he also banded 47 Juncos and took a dozen returns. He reports that Juncos left his vicinity about the 15th of April. Mr. Fleetwood expresses the wish that there were more active banders in Georgia, --- so does EBBA. At present, besides Mr. Fleetwood we only have two other active members in this state and no of no others. Charles L. Remington, a member of Inland and now in the army expects to be transferred to Georgia very soon and Private Remington, by his past record, offers a glimmer of hope, if he is stationed in Georgia very long. Mr. Remington, with another teacher conducted some extensive banding studies at Principia College for about 5 years, until both his partner and himself went into the Army. They arranged for another man to carry on the banding, but after a few months this new operator went into the Navy. During Private Remington's subsequent furlough, he returned to Principia campus at Elsoh and spent most of his time there. He was successful in reviving banding and placing it in the hands of two students, who did banding with him previously. With such a record of determination to see banding continued, we have some hope of a new banding star rising in Georgia.

NOTES ON PURPLE MARTINS COMING

Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa., promises EBBA notes on the banding of over 160 Martins at a colony established for 60 years for the next issue. If you have Martin data, Why not send it in and we'll put it all together in our June issue.

MORE AGE RECORD DATA - Fourth List

The number of old age records of banded birds arriving here at headquarters has dropped to a trickle, but some still arrive. Few of these achieve a record, but they do show that birds live longer than was at first believed. EBBA still looks for a real old Brown Thrasher record and as the summer residents return to many of banding stations in the north this month, it is probable that some new material will be sent in and some of the records now standing, will fall. Some very interesting data on Mourning Doves has been sent in by Paul H. Oppmann of Lakewood, Ohio. He reports catching 457 of this species since 1937. Inasmuch as the Fish and Wildlife Service especially desires such data we are forwarding the material to Mr. Lincoln. Along the same lines, it is hoped that all members will go over their records and send in their material to Washington on this species. Don't forget to send in records of Robin banding to Prof. O. A. Stevens of the Inland Association. He will be glad to have such material.

Back to age records, Mr. Oppmann sends us records for the whole family of Mourning Doves and is the first bander to do this. They are as follows:

NEW AGE RECORDS

<u>Place of Banding</u>	<u>Bander</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Return or Recovery</u>	<u>Age</u>
MOURNING DOVE (Male) Lakewood, Ohio	P.H. Oppmann	6/28/37	6/7/43 same	7 yrs.
(Female)	Same	7/3/37	6/6/43 same	7 yrs.
(Imm.)	Same	6/19/37	7/19/42 same	6 yrs. 1 mos.
WOOD THRUSH (Fledg.) Huntington, L.I., N.Y.	G. Gill	6/17/26	5/7/32 Elmhurst, N.Y.	5 yrs. 11 mos.

INTERESTING HAWK AND OWL RECOVERIES

Lawrence Howe, formerly of Belmont, N. Y. but now residing in De Land, Fla. has just received word of a recovery of one of the 4 Marsh Hawk nestlings he banded and photographed in Belmont as reported in the Feb. '43 issue of EBBA NEWS. He writes: "having kept the parents away for quite a spell and then moving the nest several yards to get them out of the hot sun, I always had a little doubt as to whether the parents returned and took care of the young ones. This doubt is dispelled by a card from Washington telling me that one of the young had been shot in Ohio 4 months after I banded it."

"In October, 1940, a hunter brought me an adult Great Horned Owl which he had winged. I kept it a few days and found no broken bones, so set it free. The Owl refused to fly and after several attempts to get rid of him, I finally took it to a high bank over-looking a pond. Here I launched him in the air. It was either fly or swim and he chose to fly, disappearing in the woods. The recovery record shows that exactly 3 years later, in October, 1943 he was found at Lockport, N. Y., probably shot. It is interesting to note that this owl had survived 3 years and had migrated North, somewhere around 100 miles."

(Editor's Note: In the May issue of "The Country Gentleman", farm magazine, Page 13, there is an article on Horned Owls that leaves us with mixed feelings. The writer, Kenneth Roberts has declared a total war on owls. It seems certain that they do damage on duck farms, although much of his evidence is a circumstantial nature. Certainly, pole-traps are not selective in catching the culprits and he conveniently forgets to say what other species are caught, while admitting one mistake. Seems as though some one should take the side of the owls.

MORE DATA ON SEX RECOGNITION IN JUNCOS

For some time Raymond T. Fuller of Winterton, N. Y. has been making a special study of the plumages of Slate Colored Juncos in relation to the ability to note the sex of the individual bird. His latest belief is that sex can be recognized with the greatest certainty in the coloring of the tail feathers. If EBBA remembers correctly, Jesse V. Miller of New Hyde Park, L. I., N. Y., studied the same problem with this species and while his notes were not conclusive they pointed to the same conclusion.

Mr. Fuller writes, "I have decided that for all border-line cases, where there is a doubt as to the sex of Juncos, either in winter or Spring, the tail feathers must be relied upon as the best deciding factor: Males, practically always have the 2 outer tail feathers pure white with the 3rd feather partially so; Females have only 1 outer tail feather white with the second feather only partially white. Rarely, and here I admit some doubt, females sometimes have the 2nd and 3rd feathers slightly white. Young of both sexes seem to diverge from regulation only in tail feather No. 3. Sometimes it has very little white and I imagine that these younger birds are acquiring first nuptial or first fall plumages. I now look only at their tail feathers for identification."

Mr. Fuller reports a huge number of this species present at his station April 16th and we know that a large number will leave for the north wearing bands.

THE COLOR OF TRAP EQUIPMENT

From time to time, members have stated a preference as to the color a trap should be painted. EBBA is fully in accord with the thought that all equipment should be painted as a preservative and from the standpoint of natural neatness. But the color, whether it be green, brown, gray or black makes no difference in relation to the number of birds that will be caught in any one trap. Even if the traps were painted red, white and blue it is doubted whether it would make a noticeable difference. The exact placing of the trap has much more control over the number of birds caught than has the trap's color.

To prove this, "Ye Ed" made 3 funnel traps exactly alike in size and all details. One was painted dark green, another brown and the third was left unpainted. These traps were put out with the same bait in each one at separate likely spots for three days. One trap consistently took more birds than the others so the traps were interchanged and using the same bait and the same number of days, the same site continued to catch more birds. Rotating the traps once again, the favorite location still ran ahead in the number of birds trapped, proving that the color of the trap made little difference, while the exact location of the trap was the controlling factor.

When the trapping equipment is subject to the depredations of vandals, the merit of painting a trap is "a horse from a different barn". The trap should be made as inconspicuous as possible. Whether it is green, brown, black or gray is a matter for the bander to decide. No doubt it would be better to study the coloring of some of the birds and paint the trap so that it had a mottled effect of all four of these "favorite" bander's colors. The technic followed by our fighters in the jungle might be a good method to follow and odds and ends of paints stored in the cellar might be put to good use. It should be added that the birds caught during the above experiment were of the sparrow family, being Song and White-throated Sparrows and Juncos. Possibly some species have a decided preference for some color and a fear of others, but EBBA doubts it.

W. M. Davidson reports another Blue Jay recovery from his station at Beltsville, Md. This bird was banded January 6, 1943 and was found dead December 6, 1943 at Spring House, Montgomery County, Penna.

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

Mrs. Florence K. Daley of Branch P. O., N. Y. and formerly of Oliverea, N. Y. passed away suddenly on April 15th. Mrs. Daley was one of EBBA's most active banders in Central N. Y. and in a score of years she had banded thousands of birds. She was also very active in club-life and gave many interesting talks of the subject of bird banding, not alone in the vicinity of her home town but also in Texas where she spent some time about a year ago.

Hal H. Harrison, president of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, has a very interesting article in his weekly column "Know Your Birds" in the Tarentum News recently. The subject concerns a Robin, "Battling Rob" fighting his own reflection in a window and is illustrated by a fine series of photos. Mr. Harrison suggests a cure for this trouble. Anyone wishing to stop the fight, which may go on for hours, should rub the glass with "Bon Ami" or some other cleaner to prevent the reflection.

Harold S. Peters, Atlantic Flyway Biologist of Charleston, S. C. left his home the first of this month for 4 months work in eastern Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador. In the latter two places he expects to band a number of terns. He also notifies us that F. H. Kortright's book, "Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America" can be purchased from the publisher, American Wildlife Institute, Investment Bldg., Washington, D. C. for \$4.50 postpaid in the regular edition and for \$10.00 in the deluxe leather-bound edition. Mr. Peters thinks that this book should be called to the attention of every bander for it is by far the best work we've ever had on water-fowl. It will stand as the authority for many years to come. Excellent color plates are included, many of the illustrations being in fall plumage, -- something not found in many other books. It was issued in December, 1942 and has attracted wide attention and acclaim.

Many members have commented on the March flight of Fox Sparrows reported in the previous issue. It is interesting to note where they did not appear. Charles J. Spiker of Branchport, N. Y. writes that it seems odd that they go up the Hudson in such numbers. He has not seen one at all up until the end of April and during the last 20 years he has been banding, he has only caught two or three. Richard Fischer of Flushing, L. I. also reports also that he didn't see even as much as a Fox Sparrow feather around his place, and feels somewhat slighted. At Huntington, L. I., about 20 miles further east, they were also conspicuous by their absence. In the southern part of Brooklyn, just across from Staten Island, the station of Howard Mahnken reports a few Foxes present but none trapped. It would seem that this species keeps fairly close to the Hudson going north.

EBBA is happy to report that almost 90 percent of our members in 1943 have renewed their membership with us for another year. Some new members have joined with us to make up the missing 10 percent, but of course, there is always room for more. Any member knowing the name and address of a prospective member, whether he or she is a bander now or not, will be doing the association a favor by sending in the information to "Ye Ed". In regard to the annual turn-over of members, EBBA considers the results of our recent due collection campaign highly satisfactory when it is remembered that so many of our members are entering the service or have shifted around due to war work or business related to our war effort. It might also be remarked that, of our membership this year, more members have included a subscription to BIRD BANDING than has been previously recorded in many years. EBBA has only one small complaint. This is in the matter of addresses. Whenever possible, please notify the editor a week or so in advance when you are about to move. At present we have two or three members in good standing with no address. Mail is returned from the address from which they previously sent their dues. A postal with your new address will be a great help.

BANDING NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Ralph E. Wetzel, a school teacher of Boiling Springs, Pa., writes that one of his students, Fred Smith, age 8, while visiting an uncle during Easter at Blain, Pa. found a bird trying to get into the house about 9:30 p. m. It was fluttering at a window of a lighted room. When the door was opened the Junco flew right in. It was caught and released outside, but immediately tried to come in again. On the second attempt, Fred persuaded his father to keep it and bring it to Mr. Wetzel to band before releasing it a second time. This was done. EBBA assumes that there was a heavy and thick foundation planting around the house which reflected in the glass window. As Juncos are in the habit of roosting in such plantings, protected as they are from the wind by the house, this bird saw a reflection in the glass of itself and the evergreens and decided it would join others of its species for the night, as seen in the glass. Has any other member a better solution to this Junco's "capers"?

Mr. Wetzel reports birds plentiful and speaks of banding a Hermit Thrush in the third week of April.

On June 15th, Edwin A. Mason of Washington, D. C. will take over the Superintendency of the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary at Northampton, Mass. This sanctuary was privately owned for many years but was acquired by the Massachusetts Audubon Society last January. Mr. Mason writes, "It will mean a return to my old love, wildlife management and research, including bird banding." If any member has some spare traps that are not being used and could donate them to this sanctuary in June, they would be put to good use. A postal to Mr. Mason at 6431 Tuscarawas Rd., Washington, 16, D. C. should be dispatched to complete arrangements for such a gift.

Mrs. Herbert E. Carnes of Tenafly, N. J. reports banding as slow (Apr. 20) which proves banding is a funny game. Her previous letter had birds all over the place. She reports that 2 Swamp Sparrows practically "live" in her traps and is experiencing "squirrel trouble". She has just added a woodpecker trap to her equipment and it is hoped that she will be able to get some of Bowdish's famous 10 year-old Downies from his station 2 miles away.

Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. writes that he has banded 26 Bronze Grackles and 36 Purples between Mar. 14 and Apr. 17th, with 1 return. A Grackle banded by him July 4, 1938 was reported as found dead within a mile or so of his banding station on Mar. 15, 1944. This bird was getting along in years. A 3-year old Junco, banded by him May 19, '40 was trapped with its present mate on Apr. 13th of this year.

Charles J. Spiker of Branchport, N. Y. has recently added a 6-cell Brengle trap and a small single funnel trap to his equipment. "Dick" Fischer of Flushing, L. I., N. Y. has replaced his 10-cell trap, destroyed by vandals some time ago, with an 8-cell combination of Potters and chardonorett type traps. He also reports that despite rainy weekends, he has been able to trap 4 returns, A Downy, a Grackle and 2 Blue Jays. EBBA assumes they are all comparatively youngsters as far as age records go, or he would have said something.

LeRoy Wilcox of Speonk, L. I. gave a banding talk and showed his famous collection of banding slides before an audience of some 300 students of the Bay Shore Schools in December. On April 13th, he was called back for an encore of the program by a large group of adults and teachers at the home of the principal of the school. "Roy" says that he gave the grown-ups the whole works lasting about an hour and a half, and none of the audience went to sleep. He also sends a review of his article in the State Bulletin as it appeared in "The Easthampton Star," a local newspaper, and the entire article is to be re-published in the L. I. Forum, a monthly magazine. EBBA congratulates "Roy" on some nice publicity for our banding hobby.




Sec. 562 P. L. & R.



EBBA NEWS

Issued Monthly by
 Eastern Bird Banding Association
 24 Overlook Dr., Huntington, N. Y.



Return Postage Guaranteed

DR. DAYTON STONER
 NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
 ALBANY, N. Y.

