

# EBBA NEWS



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

REACHING  
OVER  
**375**  
BANDERS  
EVERY MONTH

September, 1944

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

Vol. 7, No. 9

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## OUR THANKS TO THE LADIES

Some one has said that the hand that rocks the cradle, rules the roost, or words to that extent. Hand in hand with rule, goes responsibility. Certainly the ladies of our membership are responsible for interest in this, EBBA'S first "Ladies' Issue". If any imperfections are found, blame it on "Ye Ed", a mere man. However, we think that this issue is something pretty fine, because there appears comment from many of our members, always most generous in their support, but who are heard from all too infrequently.

"Ye Ed" wishes to thank all the ladies for their fine cooperation and wishes that it had been possible to get every item of all the many interesting letters into this issue. Reluctantly, we have had to satisfy ourselves with a bit here and a bit there, knowing that our members will understand our limitations.

## RECORDS OF BIRD'S AGES

Several of our lady members and some of the ladies from our sister organization, the INLAND, have sent in new records on the ages of banded birds. Some banders of the sterner sex have also sent in records and many of the records published heretofore have been beaten. Some records are really surprising. There are almost enough when taken together to make a full page. With the thought in mind that this issue should be entirely about the activities of the lady banders, these records will be held back until our October issue, rather than list them piece-meal.

## NEWS OF THE BANDERS

Miss Elaine Romig, the daughter of one of our new members, Mrs. Agnes B. Romig of Manhasset, L. I., N. Y., reports the banding of some 40 new birds this summer at their station. Banding activities were curtailed by numerous cats in the vicinity and a trip to Canada, where Miss Romig pursued her studies of the American Bald Eagle.

Mrs. Irene E. Sick of Cohocton, N. Y. is another bander who complains of the local cat population. She writes that her banding activities have been brought to a standstill by depredations of the "prowling puss". Her garden had a population of 29 nests last year and this year she reports the appearance of a cuckoo in the neighborhood for the first time.

Mrs. Mildred E. Grierson of Katonah, N. Y., reports that a pair of Cardinals appeared at the station of their son on February. 13 this year and that they managed to band the male. The pair nested nearby and it is believed two broods of 3 each were reared. The entire family comes daily to feed at the Grierson back door but are not easy to trap. One of the youngsters, a female has been banded so far, and it is hoped that the entire family will wear bands soon.

## BANDER CONDUCTS A WILD BIRD HOSPITAL

Mrs. Harold A. Fales, formerly of Edgewater, N. J., but now residing in New York has been operating a hospital for wild birds for more than 7 years. The busiest time at this hospital was usually in the summer with occasional patients during the Spring, Fall and Winter. The bird hospital was established to take in and nurse injured and young birds. When the Federal Authorities granted Mrs. Fales a hospital license, they requested that she band all birds, well and strong enough to go on their own, before releasing them.

Mrs. Fales banding station was therefore a small station although she did band some birds. It contained 2 acres on the Hudson which proved to be a wonderful sanctuary for migratory birds in particular. Mrs. Fales has now sold this home and is residing in New York. She writes, "Due to this change, it has necessitated my giving up, (temporarily, I hope) my bird activities for the present. We have a summer home at Stony Creek, Conn. where I hope to continue my work next season."

## PLANS AN AMPHIBIAN OPERATION

Mrs. Marie Dumont of Pequannock, N. J., who operates the Dumont Banding Station, writes, "Some weeks ago, I had an interesting experience when my son and I went out looking for young Green Herons to band at a large pond in Montgomery, N. Y. We had banded a brood 2 years in succession at this place several years ago. This year, however, we found no Little Green Herons but did discover 3 nests of Great Blue Heron in a huge dead tree about 50 feet from shore. We were unable to band them, due to the lack of means to reach the nests. The birds were plainly visible on the nests from where we stood. There were also at least six pairs of Tree Swallows nesting in hollow stumps sticking out of the water. We are looking forward to next summer, when we hope to have a boat with us so that we can get near the nesting sites of these 2 species."

Mrs. Dumont also reports that banding has been spotty, due to the lack of time. Since July 1st they have banded 52 birds. During the past year 852 birds were banded of 44 species. This is about 300 below the average yearly banding of this station. In this last annual report, Song Sparrows headed the list with 140, followed by White-throat 134 Purple Grackle 90.

## NEWS OF THE BANDERS

All our sympathy goes to Mrs. Effie Anthony of Bar Harbor, Me. who has recently lost her husband and who is herself in the Mount Desert Island Hospital at Bar Harbor. EBBA joins with all her many friends in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Miss Marion A. Boggs of Waynesville, N. C. reports that the acute labor shortage has cut out every pursuit but work. Miss Boggs has been banding for 20 years and her banding work is well known to all of us. She says she tried to do some banding this Spring but the press of other duties forced her to give it up.

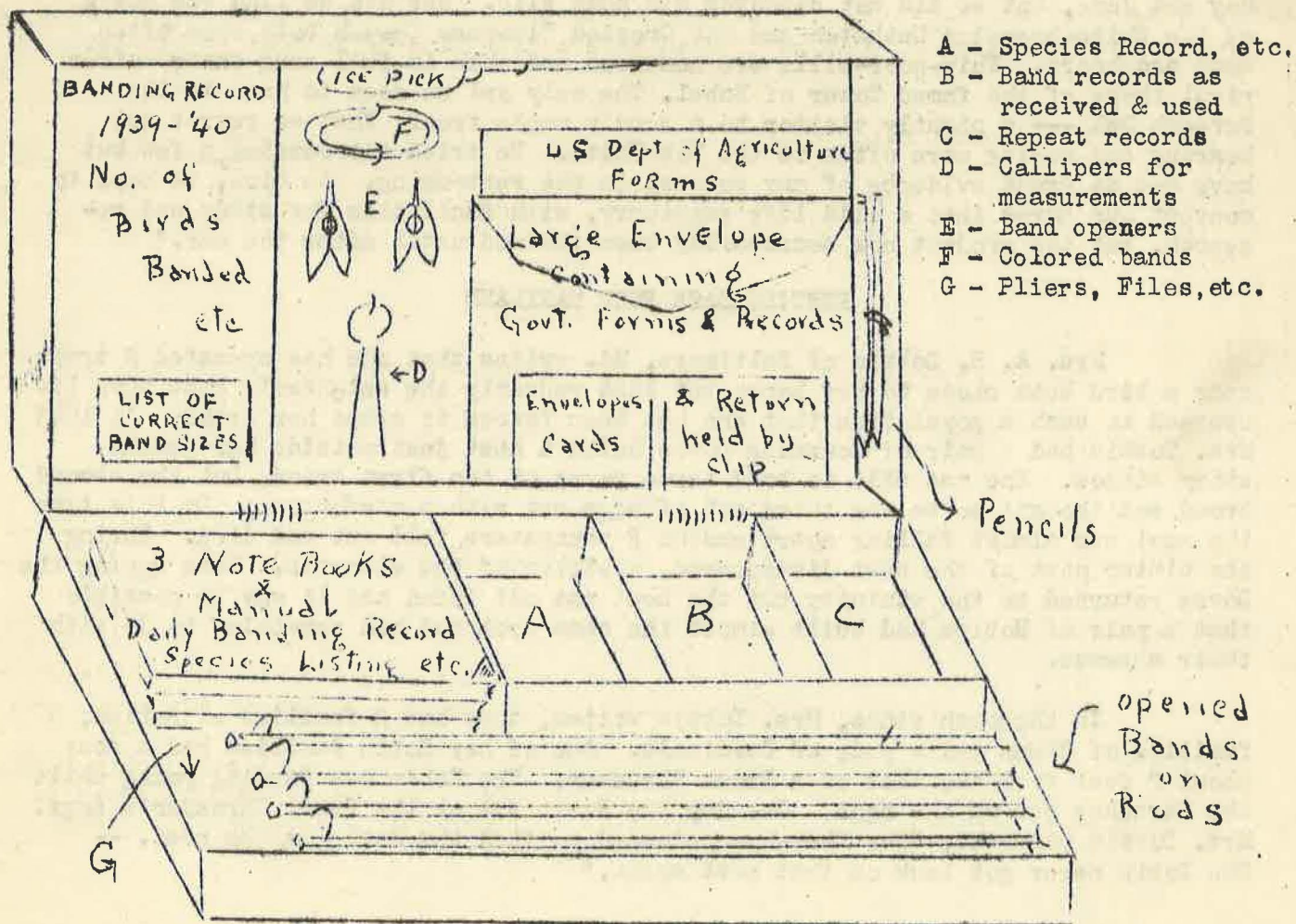
Mrs. Dayton Stoner of Albany, N. Y. assisted her late husband for over 30 years, both on scientific expeditions while he was a Professor at the State University of Iowa and on practically all field work in New York State. Mrs. Stoner hopes to continue with part of her famous husband's work, particularly with the Swallow studies for which Dr. Stoner was noted. EBBA, speaks for all members in wishing her success and any and all of us will be glad to help her in any way we can.

## A HANDY BANDER'S KIT

Mrs. Betty Carnes of Tenafly, N. J., a bander who is quickly making a name for herself, has sent us a description and sketch of a banding kit she uses at her station. It is simple to make and undoubtedly would be a time saver for many others as well as being exceptionally convenient.

This kit consists of a wooden box 24 x 12 x 6 inches in dimension, hinged in two halves, opening like the usual suitcase. In the bottom of the lower half are 5 brass rods, (curtain rods). These have a hole in one end which fits into a cup-holder spring fastener fastened into the side of the box and the other end can be lifted free to a spring fastener. These rods hold opened bands, sizes 0 to 3, ready to instant use and of course are placed on the rods in numerical order. Most of this equipment can or could be purchased in the 5 & 10 cent stores. The rods have a cap at one end, but this is not really important as the rods are held at an angle so that it is impossible for the bands to slip off except when the rod is lifted from the tooth-like holder. Spring clips such as hold brooms in place securely fasten pliers, etc. The whole little box can if necessary go right out in the garden with the bander and everything is right at the bander's finger-tips when taking the bird out of the trap. Such a kit has many advantages and not the least is the fact that all banding equipment and notes are in one place.

To give the readers a hint as to the birds Mrs. Carnes is banding, a listing gives the total for the past 4½ months as 502 new birds. Of this total 112 were Blue Jays followed by 65 Song Sparrows, 51 Catbirds, 32 Starlings, 38 Fox Sparrows, 23 Brown Thrashers, ( a surprisingly large number in ratio to the Catbirds banded,) 60 Juncos and numerous other birds of 33 species. 35 Warblers of 8 species appear on the list with Redstarts in the lead.



## WHERE BIRDS MAKE MUSIC ALL THE DAY

Mrs. Harold H. Bailey of the Rockbridge Alum Springs Farm and Biological Laboratory, Goshen, Va. writes that her bird banding is on such a small scale these days, that it can hardly be classed as an activity. "Here on the Virginia Farm," she says, "We are busy with so many other things at present that we have little time for birds other than to enjoy them, and view with satisfaction the increase in their numbers since we rid ourselves of 4 cats and 3 dogs that were on the premises.

"In Florida, where we spend our winters, there is so much food available from flowering trees and shrubs, that I have found few birds are attracted to bait in the traps. This summer I have not as yet unpacked my traps and have banded only 25 individuals of 5 species. These were mostly juvenals just ready to leave their nest. Of the 7 adult Chimney Swifts which I caught in the house, or in the cottages, I have repeated 3 times. The same thing occurred last year with another adult Chimney Swift.

"Here in Virginia, the Robin is our most abundant resident bird and is becoming quite tame. They nest on several of the porches. At one cottage, a Robin was on the front porch (with nest perched on top of a small log we had put up under eaves for a wren to use) while on the two rear porches of the same cottage, a Carolina Wren and a Bewick Wren reared their respective broods. 6 Chipping Sparrow nests were on the front lawn, besides nests of Crested Flycatcher, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Flickers, Starlings, other Robins and a Red-eyed Vireo. In the vicinity of the house, we knew where Chickadee, Bluebird, Song Sparrow, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Cardinal, Catbird, Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Chewink, Goldfinch, Indigo Bunting, Prairie Warbler, Mourning Dove, Meadowlark, Ovenbird, Barn Swallow and Crows had their nests. A Pileated Woodpecker flew daily across the lawn in late May and June, but we did not discover his nest site. Nor did we find the nests of the White-breasted Nuthatch and the Crested Titmouse though both were often seen and heard. Whip-poor-wills are numerous and when in full song their voices rival those of the famed Tower of Babel. The only owl we seem to have is the Screech Owl --- a nightly visitor to a nearby maple tree. What we regret not hearing and seeing more often is the Bob-White. We tried introducing a few but have had no great evidence of any success in the restocking. In time, we hope to convert our acres into a wild life sanctuary, with facilities for study and research, but the project has necessarily been shelved until after the war."

### NESTING DATA FROM MARYLAND

Mrs. A. B. Dobbin of Baltimore, Md. writes that she has operated 2 traps near a bird bath close to her home, but that recently the neighbor's cats have increased to such a population that she has been forced to close her traps. In 1943 Mrs. Dobbin had a pair of Mourning Doves build a nest just outside her second story window. She was able to band three young of the first brood, but the second brood and thought to be the third set of eggs met with a misfortune. By this time the nest was almost falling apart and the 2 youngsters fell out and died. During the winter most of the nest disappeared, a victim of the elements. This spring the Doves returned to the vicinity but the nest was not found and it may be possible that a pair of Robins had built almost the same spot and had something to do with their absence.

In the porch vines, Mrs. Dobbin writes, they had 2 families of Robins, 3 families of Wrens and a pair of Cardinals. One of her Robin families had a nest about 2 feet from the nest of a Brown Thrasher. The Robin was feeding young while the Thrasher sat on the eggs. One day the Robin sat on the Brown Thrasher's eggs. Mrs. Dobbin comments, "The Thrasher returned to find the Robin on the nest. -- The Robin never got back on that nest again."

## BANDING INCREASED 5 TIMES AT CAPE MAY, N. J.

Mrs. Caroline van Heeswyk, formerly of Philadelphia, is now residing at Cape May, N. J., famous, if not in song, then surely in story, as one of the greatest places for birds along the entire Atlantic Coast. Mrs. Van Heeswyk writes that her banding activities have increased, due to the war, rather than been curtailed. This is good news indeed. In fact, the current report from this lady member is just brimming over with good news ... But, we'll let the report speak for itself.

"I began banding in April, 1939, but only banded over the week-ends in the spring of each year. I got my license at the insistence of Fred Schmid, a member of the D.V.O.C. in Philadelphia, who wanted to learn whether birds returned each year to nest in the same locality. Subsequently records proved that certain birds did return for more than 1 year.

"Early last year I came to live at Cape May, where my husband is stationed in the Coast Guard Service. Both of us are very interested in banding and have been able to devote more time to the work. Recently my husband built a new trap which has worked very well. Our traps are similiar to those used at the former station of Mrs. Marie Beals of Elmhurst, N. Y. and are operated from a window in our home.

"Last Fall we banded White-throats for the first time and took 27 of them in a week, 12 of these were caught on October 29, within the space of 45 minutes. In 1942, a total of 32 birds were banded of which 2 returned in 1944. In 1943, we banded 153 new birds of which 4 have returned so far. Among these returns are a Mourning Dove banded in 1942, 2 Brown Thrashers, a Chipping Sparrow, a Cardinal and a Tufted Titmouse.

"During a period between April 3rd and June 27th this year, we banded 55 birds of 13 species. Twenty-one of these birds were White-throats and they appeared to be much thinner and less lively, than the White-throats we caught in the fall. There are so many berries, insects, etc., around the Cape after June that the birds do not go near the traps, so we do not bother to bait them during the summer. During this coming fall we will be banding again."

## CO-OPERATIVE BANDING IN MILLEDGEVILLE, GA.

Miss Mabel T. Rogers, now spending some time at Daytona Beach, Fla. writes of the banding in Milledgeville, Ga. where she has operated a station for many years. She reports that the local bird club took up the project of Chimney Swift banding at the request of Harold S. Peters. She was appointed chairman of the committee and having the banding permit, all records were made in her name. She writes, "I have been with every group each time we went on Chimney Swift banding expeditions with the exception of once, when Raymond Fleetwood took charge. --- The roof was a little too steep for me that time, anyway.

"From Swift banding, we branched out with other birds of all kinds and finally banded 40 species, trapped in gardens or taken in nesting areas. Due to the absence of some of our members, little has been done recently except by Dr. and Mrs. Sam Anderson whose garden is practically a bird sanctuary. My records are at home, but I remember the birds banded were mainly White-throats and Chipping Sparrows. There were also Cardinals, Brown Thrashers and others. We were much interested in a Brown Thrasher, our Georgia Bird, which seemed so pleased to be banded that he sang while Dr. Anderson was putting the band on its leg.

"We are trying in our teaching of teachers (at State Normal School) to impress upon them the value of reporting the number of any banded bird, whether dead or alive, when found by anyone in their school. These reports give value to our work and are not stressed enough, I fear."

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