

1951

THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

What is Bird Banding?

\$3.00 per year

E B B A N E W S

Eastern Bird-Banding Association News Letter

DECEMBER 1951

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THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

The Editor wishes to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Association a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. It is also a time when we should be thinking of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. In other words, if you can help in any way, please do so. It is our hope that you will be able to present your friends with some Christmas gifts.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23, 1952, at the Eastern House of Natural History in New York City. Dr. Charles E. Sibley has kindly consented to give a presentation on the meeting. Although we plan to have a dinner on the evening of the meeting, it is a dinner in the evening and a light supper on the

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"Let Us Band Together"

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Leroy Wilcox

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Your Editor wishes to take this opportunity to wish all members of EBBA a Merry Christmas and a busy banding New Year. He also wishes to take this occasion to thank all of those members who have helped by contributing to our several symposia and by sending in other news items of interest. Incidentally, it's not too late to present your friends with EBBA memberships as Christmas gifts.

ANNUAL MEETING

The next annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 29, 1952, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Mr. Charles K. Nichols has kindly consented to make arrangements for this meeting. Although our plans are not yet definite there will probably be a dinner in the evening and a field trip on the

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following day. Now is the time to begin work on your paper for this meeting. Please advise Mr. Groskin or the Secretary of the title, presentation time, and whether movies or slides are included, of your paper. Let's all plan to attend.

MORE ON TRAPS

In a recent issue Karl Bartel asked about elevator traps. Seth Low sent in two sheets of advertising describing one such trap in some detail and commenting that they have plenty of copies in the Fish and Wildlife Service office at Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland, to be had for the asking. It looks like a pretty good trap.

Mrs. Robert A. Army of 149 Watchung Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J., has written a very interesting letter which reads as follows:

"I have been much interested in your trap discussions and would like to put in my tuppence. Perhaps our station is typical but it may have something to offer. We have three children of our own and the child traffic here is terrific. We also are plagued with squirrels, cats and dogs. These disturbance factors have to be overcome without violence if peace is to be maintained.

Automatic traps are out of the picture. Everything but birds set them off. Also I can not be sure of making regular rounds and I am anxious to keep injuries to a minimum. This I have done, with only one injury in two years; that was a Jay which caught its bill in 1/4" mesh, but it has returned twice and this was not fatal. Also time is a real factor for me as I can never be sure of five consecutive uninterrupted minutes.

I have a house trap, which I have modified, and an L shaped Fabian type trap, and a Warbler trap which I have also shifted about and a canary cage trap which differs a little from Mr. Gill's. I enclose drawings. (We will try to show them in a future issue.) Of course my banding is on a small scale but I take about ten birds a day on an average, which piles up a fairly representative cross section of the birds in this area and represents also a possible

proposition for the small station. I realize that the big banders take thousands of birds, but I suspect that there are many like myself who can not devote all their time to this grand hobby.

I think baits are a real problem. I try to collect all of the wild fruits and seeds I can over the fall and summer and find them a help. Peanut hearts are terribly expensive and I do not find that they increase the take. Bread fried up in bacon drippings seems to be the best of all. I think that the birds can see it from a distance better than anything else. Next in order is sunflower seed, then regular wild bird mixtures, then berry bearing shrubs and constantly dripping water, then raisins which are very good in the spring. Kinglets seem to like boiled rice, but nothing else takes it. Robins sometimes like macaroni. Thrushes like apples but so do possums. Plum pits saved from the table are also good for Thrushes.

On good flight days we take as many as thirty or forty birds in this small station. I would also like to hear from other banders about the time element. I suspect that the early bird does not catch the worm. My time records show ten to eleven AM and three thirty to five thirty as the most productive times. I am at a loss to explain this. I have often started banding at five in the morning, but have stopped doing this. It does not pay. Has anyone else any notes on this? It seems heresy to say that birds are not creatures of the dawn, but they are not in our garden.

I would like to know what a Ver-bail trap is and what a Modesto trap is. I know that I have a wealth of ignorance, but perhaps I can reduce it by asking better informed people.

I might add a word here, it is always a temptation when you see several birds near one of these traps and only one in them to see if you can increase the haul by waiting for another bird to go in. By and large this does not pay. Though the early bird does not catch the worms a bird in the hand is still worth several in the bushes. Probably there is nothing here that everybody doesn't know, but I know what a job it is to get anybody to contribute their

ideas, so please take the spirit, even if not the facts."

Mrs. Marie Dumont, Pequannock, N. J., writes as follows:

"We, at this station, use Government Sparrow, Potter, House, Flat, Tunnel and Brenckle water drip type traps and find them all good. However, find that the Brenckle water drip and House trap take the largest number of birds and species over the year. Potter ranks next. Naturally the Brenckle being the top opening type takes at least 90% of the Warbler family, also all Kinglets and Nuthatches taken at this station. We find the latter equally attractive to such birds as Blue Jays, Robins, Grackles and Cat-birds. The reason we like the House trap is because it takes most every kind of bird, including some Warblers, the latter fact being due perhaps because of a basin of water being kept on the ground inside it.

We operate several 2 and 4 division water drip traps in trees and bushes, from four to ten feet above ground that do very well. Of course these are stationary as we, as well as other banders, find that moving traps do not attract birds.

Bait used includes chopped suet, raisins, chopped nuts, any native berries that may be available, sunflower seeds, a mixture of commercial wild bird seed, bread and cake crumbs.

To go back to the traps, the Government Sparrow trap is a must for ground birds, especially during migration of Sparrows, as we have taken as many as 20 birds in one trap at one time. The Flat trap we use has a rather large top opening door as well as a large front opening, both being held open and closed by means of hand operated string arrangement. The Tunnel trap is L shape, sets flat on ground, tunnel formed by merely hollowing out the ground at L juncture. Both have their merits but need a good deal of attention. At times the traps are shifted to different positions."

COLORED BANDS

The following information, supplied by Mr. C. Russell Mason, should be of interest to our members:

"Since taking over the handling of colored aluminum bands on recommendation of the Fish and Wildlife Service, we have had steadily increasing calls for additional colors and for sizes which we did not handle at first. On recommendation of the Fish and Wildlife Service, we originally put in only five colors since we have to get large quantities and we did not want to invest too much money. Now, however, with calls for the larger sizes and for size 0 in particular, we are putting in practically a full line of sizes -- 0, 1, 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 3A, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, and 8, in the following colors -- red, blue, green, yellow, black, white, and silver. We will probably not get out another circular until we get some trap prices brought up to date, so we wonder whether you would insert a notice to the effect that we have all these available in the next issue of Ebba News. The prices for all sizes 0 through 4 will be \$1.50 per C; for sizes 5 and 6 \$2.00 per C; 7 A and 7B \$2.25 per C; size 8 \$2.50 per C. These will be postpaid within the United States. No orders for less than 100 can be handled but such an order may include four colors of twenty-five each."

These bands can be obtained by writing to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, 155 Newbury St., Boston 16, Mass.

CASUALTIES

Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N. J., passes along the following information on a subject which has puzzled many of us at various times:

"Doubtless other banders have had the experience of a bird quietly 'passing out' during a banding operation, though the handling is gentle and experienced.

In answer to a query as to cause of such deaths, sent to Dr. Leonard J. Goss, Veterinarian for the New York Zoological Society, accompanied by the body of a robin which had died in this manner,

Dr. Goss writes:

"Your query regarding why birds occasionally suddenly die in one's hands is difficult to answer. All of us that handle birds have had it happen, so much so that when about to pick up a privately owned bird we always caution the owner that the results may be disastrous. The term "shock" covers a multitude of sins and embodies complex physiological changes. However, in these cases, I feel it is the proper word to use. Very recently we had a pigeon die while we were examining it. This is the first time we have ever had such an experience with a pigeon. I would not normally expect it to occur with a pigeon but it did. Apparently, certain birds are of a nervous temperament that will not permit them to withstand handling."

It has always been my hope that some time examination of a bird which has died under such circumstances will disclose physical reactions showing what constitutes the "shock".

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Jay Schnell	332 W. Waverly Rd., Glenside, Penna.
Mr. Irving Feist	Sycamore Ave., Mammouth Co., Shrewsbury, N. J.
Mrs. Jos. E. Lester	R.D.#1, Box 418, Allequippa, Penna.
Mrs. Martha Earl	Box 73, Blooming Grove, New York
Mr. H. Everest Clements	49 Stoneham Rd., Rochester 10, N.Y.
Mrs. Louis C. Owens Jr.	The Wabe, RFD 2, Mount Kisco, N.Y.

* * * * *

1952 is the year for you to start taking BIRD-BANDING. Send \$4.00 to Mr. Richard M. Hinchman, 75 Fairbanks Rd., Milton 86, Mass.

YOU COULD MAKE YOUR OWN TRAPS

BUT WE CAN DO IT FOR YOU AT LOWER COSTS!

ONE-CELL TRIP-STEP TRAP
A good sturdy portable little job of all metal construction with galvanized floor and sliding take-out door. Our most popular model for feeding shelf or on the ground. Size 6 x 6 x 8"

ONE-CELL TOP-OPENING TRAP

A good bush trap to be set in shrubbery or on a tree. Spring operated and all metal construction. Size 6 x 6 x 8"

Each of these traps \$2.00 plus 25¢ postage and packing. Canadian banders add \$1.00 per trap to cover shipping and other charges. All traps available within 24 hours of receipt of order. Specify 1/2 or 1/4 wire mesh as desired.

GATHERING CAGE
A safe all-metal gathering cage with 100 uses, Size 4 x 5 x 8 with sliding door. \$1.00 postpaid. In USA.

Large traps of several designs available. For information write to: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L.I., N.Y.

R. O. Bender

R. D. #1

Bridgeton, N. J.

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