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E B B A N E W S

The Eastern Bird-Banding Association News Letter

July 1952

"Let Us Band Together"

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue, as was announced in the May-June issue, EBBA NEWS is prepared under the direction of a new editor. It is not anticipated that there will be immediate or drastic changes in the format or content of this newsletter, but, from time to time, and especially in response to comments from readers, changes may be made. In the present issue, there is a slight change in that all the material pertaining to the manner of publication of EBBA NEWS, published in each issue as required by postal regulations, together with the list of officers is confined to the front cover so that the inside cover is available for other uses.

Regardless of the competency or willingness of the Editor, this newsletter can be produced regularly only if each member will, from time to time, send in items of interest pertaining to his banding activities. At the moment, such material is especially in need to build up a reasonable reservoir of material.

The Editor would especially welcome comments as to types of articles and other material readers would like to see in future issues. For example, would species symposia, similar to those on the Junco and the White-throated Sparrow, be of interest? Do readers like to see tabulations of birds banded at other banders' stations? What about recovery or return records?

Articles for use in EBBA NEWS can be divided into three types. The first includes a rather formal style such as the Broun, Peterson, and Golden-crowned Sparrow articles in this issue. The second is more informal, such as the quotations from Mrs. McEntee's letter. The third consists of brief notes, queries, comments, etc. Any of these would be most welcome.

It would assist the Editor very much if members who type their contributions would use a column 68 spaces wide and consisting of 39 lines, the size of a single page of EBBA NEWS.

Don't forget, EBBA NEWS will be what your contributions make it!

MAURICE BROUN HONORED BY MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

On Monday, June 2, Maurice Broun, a bander of long standing and a new Council Member of EBBA and better known to many as the Curator of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, was granted a signal honor by having conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science at commencement exercises at Muhlenberg College at Allentown, Pa.

Muhlenberg College is to be congratulated for its good judgment in conferring this degree in recognition of the valuable work which Maurice Broun has done in his eighteen years at Hawk Mountain both in furthering the cause of conservation and in awakening many persons to the worthwhile values to be obtained from an interest in birds and other living things. In addition, his sound scholarship is evidenced by two books, "HAWKS ALOFT, THE STORY OF HAWK MOUNTAIN", and "INDEX TO NORTH AMERICAN FERNS", as well as over seventy-five technical and semi-popular articles, and a number of the life history studies in the third volume of Forbush's monumental "BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES".

In addition to his membership in the EBBA, Dr. Broun is a fellow of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, a charter member of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, a full member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a member of the Wilson Ornithological Club and of the American Fern Society. In March, he was elected an honorary member of the West Chester Bird Club.

Dr. Broun was born in New York City in 1906 and was educated in the schools of Boston, Massachusetts, where he later came under the influence of Dr. John B. May and the late Edward Howe Forbush. Before coming to Hawk Mountain in 1934, he was associated with the Austin Ornithological Research Station at Northeastham on Cape Cod, and in the same year he was married to Irma Penniman of Eastham, who is now his devoted companion at Hawk Mountain, where she has become known to thousands of visitors as the gracious hostess and keeper of the gate.

The EBBA can certainly be properly proud of the attainments of one of its members and rejoice with him in this high honor! --AEC

ONCE IN A LIFE TIME!

by June R. Conway

Shortly after seven on the morning of June third this year, my father, E. Earl Ridor, removed a "yellow-crowned" sparrow from a Middleton thrush trap in our yard. He had watched through binoculars as it alighted near the trap and immediately entered it. Knowing that it was an unusual species, he hastened to remove it from the trap and bring it into the house. We were thrilled to discover that we had captured a rare and beautiful bird. It was a male Golden-crowned Sparrow in adult plumage, at this season an inhabitant of Alaska and northwestern Canada.

Before it was released bearing band number 21-122216, the sparrow attended the testimonial dinner for Roger Tory Peterson at Lititz, Pennsylvania, where it was examined by no less than Dr. Peterson, Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Ludlow Griscom, Seth H. Low, Dr. Maurice Brown, Dr. Earl. Poole, and many other guests. It was eminently fitting that this bird, added to the Pennsylvania State list through the banding program, should be held in the hand of Seth Low, director of this work!

Raymond J. Middleton, EBBA President, and family came to our home to inspect the Golden-crown, as did Mr. Charles K. Nichols of The American Museum of Natural History, and Mrs. Nichols. Many other birders came from within a radius of seventy-five miles. The Westfield (New Jersey) Bird Club was strongly represented, and many members came from the West Chester and Lehigh Valley Bird Clubs.

Being primarily a seed eater, the sparrow thrived in captivity until June 16th when it was released to go on its way rather than end up in a museum collection. It remained with us until the evening of the eighteenth when it was recaptured for the fifth and last time.

This individual is, in so far as we know, the second banded east of its normal range and one of five or six records east of the Rocky Mountain region where it is but a straggler, it normally keeping west of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

Mrs. Howard G. McEntee, an active bander and new member of EBBA's Council, contributes the following:

"I had a very interesting experience a few weeks ago - May 10th to be exact, a dull, chilly day noted for two reasons. First, it produced the first pronounced wave of warblers to go through my place, - the birch trees seemed filled with Magnolias, Cape Mays, Yellows, Black-throated Blues, Redstarts, etc; second, it provided us with a very interesting and lively pet. All morning, interspersed with warbler notes an occasional series of harsh notes was heard. Being busy in the garden, I didn't take the time to follow it up, although all the time in the back of my mind it was puzzling me, but in the afternoon from the kitchen window I noticed a very unusual bird near my Middleton drip trap. Getting the binoculars on it, I still couldn't figure out what it was - a peculiar shade of green with dark edgings on the wing feathers - but suddenly it turned around and then I saw its bill and knew I might shortly trap a Parakeet! Sure enough, in a minute or so it walked right into the drip trap. I found it minus a tail but otherwise unharmed, and so this is the story of how we acquired a new pet."

A QUERY

Mrs. McEntee also writes, "Hardly a day passes now that the doorbell doesn't ring and there stand some eager kids with a baby bird for me. What can you do? I have talked myself hoarse this winter to scout troops telling them not to pick up baby birds but to leave them alone so the parents can take care of them. But inevitably the kids come, and sometimes their parents, too, but one and all are urged firmly to go right back where they found the bird, put it in a reasonably safe place, and walk away. This place would soon be a good sized zoo if I even attempted to bring up these poor waifs. Anyway, the bird's chances of survival are just as good as they would be if reared by a human. My percentage of successful rearings is practically zero, so I just refuse to do it anymore. What I would like to know is, how do other banders cope with this problem?"

Can anyone help Mrs. McEntee?

490 Fairfield Avenue
Ridgewood, New Jersey

DINNER IN HONOR OF ROGER TORY PETERSON

On Friday evening, June 6, at the General Sutter Hotel in Lititz, Pennsylvania, the Lancaster County Bird Club sponsored a testimonial dinner in honor of Roger Tory Peterson at which a number of EBBA members were present. The occasion was to fete Peterson in connection with the honorary degree of Doctor of Science which had been conferred on him by Franklin and Marshall College at Lancaster earlier in the day.

The affair was a most delightful one, marked by a fine spirit of informality and friendliness on the part of all concerned. Kenneth B. Corbett, President of the Club, acquitted himself admirably as toastmaster. Seated at the speaker's table were many friends of Dr. Peterson who had been associated with him in a variety of situations.

The guests of honor included Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Ludlow Griscom of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University; Kenneth Morrison, Editor of Audubon Magazine; Dr. Irston Barnes, President of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia; Dr. Earl L. Poole, Director of the Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery; Seth H. Low of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Dr. Maurice Brown, Curator of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary; Orville W. Crowder, Past President of the Maryland Ornithological Society; Dr. Herbert H. Beck, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Franklin and Marshall College; Mrs. Rosalie Edge, President of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association; and Dr. and Mrs. Peterson.

Following remarks by the honored guests, Dr. Peterson told of his recent work in preparing a field guide to the birds of western Europe.

Other EBBA members, in addition to those previously mentioned, who attended the dinner included Dr. and Mrs. Harold B. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Conway, and Barton L. Sharp. --AEC

A CORRECTION

In the May-June issue of EBBA NEWS, page 3, it is incorrectly stated that the price of the trapping guide of the British Trust for Ornithology is 60 cents. Mr. E. Alexander Bergstrom, editor of BIRD-BANDING, advises that the correct price is 40 cents postpaid. Copies of this manual may be obtained from him; postage stamps are acceptable in payment. Address him at 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 7, Conn.

* * *

NEW MEMBERS OF E.B.B.A.

The E.B.B.A. is happy to welcome the following persons into membership in the Association. If each member would make a serious, personal attempt to add a new member to our roll, we would quickly achieve our goal of 300 members. If members will supply the Editor with names and addresses of good prospects, he will send a copy of a current or recent issue of EBBA NEWS in the hope that this will help persuade the prospect to join. The list of new members follows:

Mr. Robert Leo Smith, a former Editor of EBBA NEWS who is Route 1, Reynoldsville, Pa. returning from military service.

Mr. James Waite
95 N. Woods Road, Flower Hill
Manhasset, L.I., N.Y.

June R. Conway (Mrs. Albert E. Conway)
"Caernarvon", Route 4, Easton, Pa.

* * *

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Mr. Marion L. Hundley
From: 545 W. Virginia Ave.
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