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NO. 7

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

E B B A . N E W S

Eastern Bird-Banding Association News Letter

JULY 1951

Published Monthly by

THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

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THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

"Let Us Band Together"

\$2.00 per year

Vol. 14

JULY 1951

No. 7

210 Glenn Road	President Horace Groskin	Ardmore, Pa.
R. D. #1	Secretary & Editor R. O. Bender	Bridgeton, N. J.
811 N. Allen St.	Treasurer Merrill Wood	State College, Pa.
Geoffrey Gill	Vice-Presidents Raymond J. Middleton	Leroy Wilcox

July 1951

EBBA NEWS

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Nearly all of you will be surprised and some shocked at the form of this issue of the News. But the hard facts of life were that we couldn't continue with the printed form within the funds available. Hopefully, the change in printing may allow us to enlarge the News by a page or two when the volume of material being received warrants the additional space. Which is an opportunity to again remind each member that the News can only be of value if each of you contributes a note or a news item several times a year. If you are doubtful regarding the value of your news item send it anyway and let your Editor judge. Then, if you don't agree you'll have an excuse to write again. Comments and suggestions from members regarding the new form of the News or its content are requested.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON THE ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Crowder, who with his committee did such an able job of arranging the meeting, wrote that the film "The Tawny Pipit" which everyone enjoyed so much cost a total of \$26.88. An "offering" taken at the meeting totaled \$19.00, of which \$2.00 went to the janitor. Thus, the film cost EBBA just \$9.88 which certainly was a bargain.

The cost of printing programs, of projectors, and other incidental expenses was contributed by the Maryland Ornithological Society. We hope that they will accept our thanks and appreciation and our congratulations on a job well done.

NOTES FROM THE WEST

Your Editor's regular employment requires considerable travel to various parts of the country. On such a trip last April (while the Junco Symposium issue was being printed and mailed) he had the privilege of attending an annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club which was held at Asilomar, near Monterey, California. At this time he met many active western banders and had the

pleasure of talking banding and banding problems with them. In fact an informal evening session on Saturday night was devoted to an exchange of information and views on banding activities. Ornithological research is very active on the West Coast. Papers were presented during the regular sessions on studies of hybridization among towhees and sapsuckers (separate papers), on hibernation of the Poor-will, on new techniques for recording and analyzing bird songs, to mention only a few. Your Editor will long remember the gracious hospitality with which he was received by the members of the Cooper's Club and the Western Bird Banding Association.

A boat trip about twenty miles off-shore with the Club netted several new pelagic birds but no Albatrosses. A one day auto trip in the Arizona desert near Tuscon was also productive of many new bird acquaintances, among them the Road-runner which had been previously pursued so unsuccessfully.

Two major problems were discussed with the western banders. These were, first, the proposal made by Dr. Blake for the formation of a North American Bird Banding Association, and second, ways and means of expanding the coverage and effectiveness of the species symposia as exemplified by our initial efforts in the News. It would be manifestly improper for your Editor to attempt to speak for the Western Association on either of these matters, but it should be in order to comment that they appeared to be receptive to the idea of a national association provided the interests of the existing regional associations were adequately protected. Much of the discussion centered around the impact of a national organization on the present regional groups and on ways and means of reconciling their interests. Several WBBA members have been actively interested in extending the species symposia idea to their area. Among them are Mr. Ronald Reuther and Mr. Hatch Graham who have been actively working out details of a program which would be adaptable to their organization.

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

As indicated above this continues to be a live subject of discussion among banders. Some of you have written to President Groskin expressing your opinions on the desirability of such an organization. If you have an opinion please write to him so that he may be guided by the thoughts of the membership in his action. The proposal presently being considered is that of appointing representatives from each regional association to explore, negotiate, and formulate the basic principles and requirements of such an organization. As your Editor understands the matter, these representatives would have no power to commit the association to ultimate membership in a national body. So whether for or against, write President Groskin.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Lucinda P. Moore
Mr. Albert Schnitzer
Mr. Richard M. Hinchman

Box 154, Kirkersville, Ohio
922 Lakeside Pl., Elizabeth 3, N. J.
75 Fairbanks Rd., Milton 86, Mass.

BANDING SUPPLIES

The Massachusetts Audubon Society, 155 Newbury St., Boston, 16, Mass. is offering a wide variety of traps to banders including some types not being offered by EBBA's own Jeff Gill. If you are interested write to them at the above address for further details. They also sell colored aluminum bands in red, blue, green, yellow, and silver in sizes 1, 1A, 2, 3, and 6. All sizes except #6 sell for \$1.50 per hundred, postpaid; the #6 bands sell for \$2.00 per hundred. No orders will be accepted for less than 100 bands of each size but the hundred may include 25 of each of four colors.

SYMPOSIA

A few additional reports have come in too late to be included in the symposium. Maurice Broun who is, as most of you know, Curator of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, wrote:

"Much impressed with group habit; for example, despite the incursion of new birds, group of Juncos banded in early winter remained intact and repeated to early April. Three early winter birds together in one trap, March 25; but no newcomers at the time. Male migrants predominant to early April; mainly females now."

Jeff Gill also contributes the following:

"In general I would say that after November 20th of an average year, in the general vicinity of N.Y.C., any new Junco appearing in one's trap is a wintering bird. Individual birds trapped before November 20th may either winter or be migrants, with the chance tending to a large catch of migrants in the early flights. Any Junco banded in October or November and then appearing in the traps the following April is probably a winter resident and not a migrant. This bird wintered in a sheltered place just outside of the trapping radius, and as the movement starts in the Spring it has wandered back into the trapping area. The chances that one would catch a Junco in the fall migrating south and then later catch the same bird migrating north are so slight as to be almost impossible. I think as you look over the return records from stations you will note that most of the returns; in fact almost all of them, are for birds that wintered in or on the area to which they returned. A migrating return is almost an impossibility."

Please do not forget the TRAP SYMPOSIUM for September. So far not a single contribution has come in! Judging by the discussion which took place at the dinner during the Annual Meeting in Baltimore there is a great deal of interest in the subject and many novel ideas and improvements which are not generally known. Please send in your contribution even if it consists only of questions you would wish to have answered. Suitable subjects are:

Trap design and fabricating short-cuts
 Trap placement
 Gathering cages and their use
 Special traps for species difficult to take in regular designs
 Drawings of traps
 Record of experience - which types are most suitable for which species

Surely you can think of many others.

Your Editor has formalized his thoughts regarding ways and means of making the idea of symposia more useful and has sent a proposal to representatives of the regional associations and the Fish and Wildlife Service. If the idea is sufficiently well received it will be abstracted for a future issue of the News.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Mrs. Eleanor Dater reports banding 1570 Purple Finches for the season. She has also banded the two young of a Lawrence Warbler. Since the Annual Meeting she is serving as an informal committee on memberships. If you know of a prospective new member why not drop her a note informing her of the name and address of the prospect.

Merrill Wood sends the following:

"A suggestion to banders removing rectrices for research — to insure accuracy, always count all the rectrices before pulling out the feather you wish to collect. Passerine birds normally have twelve tail feathers."

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R. O. Bender
R. D. #1
Bridgeton, N. J.

Return to:

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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.

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