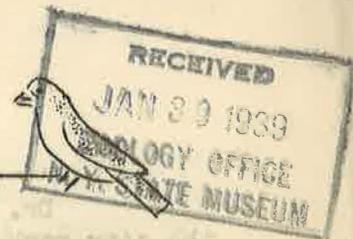


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EBBA NUS



A Friendly Report to Members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

January 1939

Let Us Band Together

Vol. 1- No. 3

ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 25th - PHILADELPHIA

Under the able leadership of our Secretary, Dr. C. Brooke Worth, plans are progressing satisfactorily for a very interesting annual meeting to be held in Philadelphia on Saturday, February 25th. A program of excellent papers is being arranged. Anyone who wishes time on this program should get in touch with Dr. Worth, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., at once, so that the schedule can be run off smoothly.

The biggest attendance ever known is anticipated. Invitations will be sent out shortly to every bird bander in our territory, notifying them of the exact time and place. Several new features will make their bow at this get-together including a display of publicity given to E.B.B.A. individuals and an exhibition of bird photographs taken by members of our Association. Make plans now to be in Philadelphia on February 25th and grasp the opportunity to meet your fellow banders.

MEMBERSHIP

With enthusiasm reaching a new high, everything points to 1939 as the biggest and best year in the history of E.B.B.A. It is with a great deal of pleasure that your Association announces a record breaking influx of new members and warmly welcomes each one. May we introduce the following:

- Betz, Mrs. Myrtle, 515 Locklie St., Dunedin, Fla.
- Caldwell, Dorothy W., Mount McGregor, N. Y.
- Cantrell, William F., Box 77, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.
- Clark, Anthony M., 49 E. Abingdon Ave., Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Clarke, Dr. C.H.D., Nat'l Parks Bureau, Dept. Mines & Resources, Ottawa, Can.
- Dobbin, Anne Bathurst, 1308 Bolton St., Baltimore, Md.
- Dock, George Jr., 42 Sage Terrace, Scarsdale, N. Y.
- Herrick, Eleanor R., 935 Smith Lane, Woodmere, L.I., N.Y.
- Large, Dr. Bruce, 27 N. Goodman Street, Rochester, N. Y.
- ✓ Lerch, Malcolm J., R.F.D. #5, Penn Yan, N. Y.
- Luellan, Mrs. Thomas G., 20 Orchard Terrace, Washington, Pa.
- ✓ Matacotta, Santo E. 58-33 85th St., Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y.
- ✓ Mayer, John, 122-67 134th St., South Ozone Park, L.I., N.Y.
- Nichols, L. Nelson, 315 E. 68th Street, New York, N.Y.
- Noble, Dr. G. Kingsley, 209 Sunset Road, Englewood, N. J.
- Paul, J. Folsom, The Haves, School of Horticulture, Ambler, Penna.
- Pedersen, Carl A. A., Hillcrest Ave., Montvale, N. J.
- Phillips, Dr. Walter, 109 East Palisade Avenue, Englewood, N.J.
- Reed, Caroline, 129 W. Seymour St., Germantown, Philadelphia, Penna.
- Rogers, Mabel T., Georgia State College, Milledgeville, Ga.
- ✓ Sick, Mrs. Irene Edmond, The John H. Sick Farm, Cohocton, N. Y.
- Smith, Frank R., R.F.D. #2, Box 100, Laurel, Md.
- Swart, Mrs. Irene D., 444 Union Street, Boonton, N. J.
- Swift, Hewson H., Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Penna.
- Stratton, Charles A., 945 Concord Ave., Drexel Park, Penna.
- VanDeusen, Hobart M., 128 Pinehurst Avenue, New York, N. Y.
- Vogt, William, National City Bank, Lima, Peru
- Von Borowsky, Lisa, Chinsegut Hill Sanctuary, Brooksville, Fla.
- Ware, R.E., Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson, South Carolina.

WHAT BANDERS ARE DOING

Dr. W. Bruce Large, of Rochester, N.Y. has operated a waterfowl trap in the city park for twelve years. The Rochester Parks are justly famous and are well known by nature lovers everywhere. Dr. Large bands an average of 1,000 wild ducks each year. Over 300 new birds in one day is his best catch but he also reports the trapping of 850 ducks at one time. "Of course", he states, "Many of these birds were banded, either at my station before, or that of some other cooperator." Trapping operations are conducted in full view of the public at all times and the data is always available to students, ornithologists or others, who may be interested. Scoutmasters and their troops are always welcome as well as nature study classes, womens clubs and others.

Horace Groskin of Ardmore, Pa. recently arranged with the Philadelphia Inquirer to publish a full page in its Sunday Roto-gravure section depicting bird banding operations at his station.

Miss Dorothy Caldwell of Mount McGregor, N.Y. writes: "I have appreciated copies of "Ebba Nus", and will be glad to enroll in your ranks. Do you happen to know Mount McGregor? It is the sanatorium for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's employees and is located on a low ridge of the Adirondack foothills. My laboratory window looks right into the woods, and I've had a feeding station on the sill for over 10 years. I wish now that I had known years ago how fascinating banding can be, for I have had rather an interesting opportunity here. My first trap was not satisfactory and it was not until a year ago that I got off to a real start. For years I have fed Chickadees, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers and one memorable winter fed scores of Redpolls, but, of course, had no idea of the number of individuals I was entertaining. Imagine my surprise, when I found last winter I had banded 75 birds - then did not succeed in trapping all of my visitors. I had banded 49 Chickadees, 12 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 8 White-Breasted Nuthatches, 2 Hairy and 4 Downy Woodpeckers. It is such a thrill to be doing this and I know that the work will grow more engrossing each year".

Dr. Carlton M. Herman is now in Africa on an expedition for the New York Zoological Society. He is expected to return in March.

Geoffrey Gill, Huntington, L.I., N.Y. is conducting a Bluebird housing project in his township with the cooperation of 13 Boy Scout troops. Between 100 and 200 houses are being built and placed according to instructions based on the plan used by T. E. Musselman, in Quincy, Illinois, for three years. A detailed report of Musselman's work appeared in BIRD BANDING for October, 1935. It is hoped that this new project will form a basis of comparison with the former work of Musselman.

R. E. Ware of Clemson, S.C. has recently added waterfowl banding to his activities on a government created lake near his station. This lake has been formed due to a new dam. Several species of ducks have taken advantage of it this season, so Ware has stepped in and is now taking advantage of the ducks. He reports banding 23 already.

Henry P. Bally of Overbrook, Pa. combines his banding activities with his hobby for photography. He has been able to make several interesting motion pictures of birds.

The banding station of Miss Marion A. Boggs, near Waynesville, N.C., is 2800 feet above sea level, near The Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

WHAT YOU COULD DO

LeRoy Wilcox of Speonk, L.I., N.Y. has invited a small group of banders, three or four within fifty miles of his station, to assist him in banding a nesting colony of water birds at Gardiners Island, N.Y. This outing is planned for early in July and Mr. Wilcox will supply a boat. This expedition may also assist him in his work with the banding of Ospreys. He is the second highest bander of this species.

Assist with the Disease Study Project by sending any dead bird which comes into your possession to the nearest pathologist. These are listed in issue No. 1 of Ebba Nus. A copy will be sent you on request.

If you enjoy a walk on a Sunday afternoon and live near the shore, hike along the beach, keep an eye on the high tide mark. You may come across the remains of a banded bird, especially after a storm.

This Spring High School nature classes, boy scout troops and many other clubs will enjoy an informal talk about banding. A little confidence, a small bird trap and an assortment of bands is all that is needed to educate your audience. Spread the word to report banded birds when found. One bander reports 8 recoveries reported within 18 months after one or two such talks.

AN AMUSING SITUATION

A legal situation was forced on Birdwood by a female Downy Woodpecker. "She huffed and she puffed", but she didn't knock the house down because the owner complained to a game warden. This happened in the late fall. The woodpecker was living in a bird house at my banding station and apparently spent her days at work making holes, up near the eaves, in the side of a neighbor's shingled house. The neighbor tried various ways of driving the bird away without success. At last he appealed to the warden for relief. The game warden called, viewed the damage, and asked the owner if he knew where the bird roosted. My good neighbor accused me of harboring the villain. So the warden called on me, issued an order for the bird to be carried away several miles or else he would return with a shot gun. The next day a small burlap bag was arranged over the top of the bird house, pulled down over the opening at night and she was caught. The following morning #34-224204 was put on her leg and Mr. Beals released her in Van Cortland Park, New York City. - Marie V. Beals, Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y.

UNUSUAL CAPTURES

On June 16, 1928, at St. Davids, Pa., I spent the morning constructing a government sparrow trap. I had not quite finished when it was time to go into the house for lunch. After lunch, I came out to find that a House Wren had entered the unbaited, unset and unfinished trap out of sheer curiosity. I was able to catch it and it became No. B-55495. -Dr.C.Brooke Worth, Swarthmore, Pa.

On October 11, 1927, I caught a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in one of our feed houses where duck feed is stored. The temperature at 7 a.m. was 40 degrees and the night before was the coldest of the fall. I placed No. 592251 on its leg and sent it on its way. This is the only cuckoo I have banded to date. - LeRoy Wilcox, Speonk, L.I., N.Y.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE - WATCH FOR IT!

KEEPING IT UNDER A HAT - or the tale of a wandering Song Sparrow which was caught in the high silk hat of an undertaker.

BATTLING A BLACK SNAKE - or a new use for an old rake.

FIRST BANDING MEMORIES

"My first experience in bird banding is interesting from the standpoint of the species and the place. The species was Sooty Tern. The place, Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida in June 1937. I was a member of the Florida Audubon Society expedition to the Tortugas Keys, 70 miles west of Key West and the only place in the United States where Sooty and Noddy Terns nest. Since that time I have banded more than 2,000 of these birds." - J.C. Dickinson, Jr., Tampa, Florida.

"Recovering from a long illness, pondering what to do with my time, an interesting article by a bander solved the question for me. While still in bed I negotiated for and received a permit. The next step after regaining my strength was to make and place a drop trap about 75 yards from the house with a string leading into a window. Eagerly I awaited the first victim. Then I waited more. Grackles visited the garden daily, but never could I find one underneath. All around the trap, even on it; everywhere but under. Each day I watched with the tenseness and hope that accompanies fishing. For nearly two weeks this went on. One day two birds alighted on the ground and without any fuss walked under the trap! Holding my breath, I gave a mighty yank on the string, pulling the trigger stick halfway to the house. One bird was safely under at last! Thus was banded on April 14, 1938, my first bird, #38-318411 - only a Bronzed Grackle, it is true, but no big game hunter ever received a greater thrill." - L.L. Howe, Belmont, N.Y.

"Pine Siskins and pear blossoms! These are the memory of my first banded bird and the courtesy of the well known bander, Beecher S. Bowdish, who had promised that he would bring me a trap and instruct me in banding ways. A flock of Pine Siskins had for sometime been visitors in a friend's garden next door. The morning Mr. Bowdish came the Pine Siskins were still around. The trap, baited with sunflower seeds was placed among the fallen blossoms. A few minutes later two Siskins entered the trap and I had my first lesson in bird banding, giving band #45230-B to one of the birds on April 30, 1928. Mr. Bowdish told me this was the first Pine Siskin he had ever banded although he had banded thousands of birds." - Mrs. Katherine Hegeman, Montclair, N.J.

QUESTIONS

Members are requested to send replies or additional questions to Mrs. Marie V. Beals, 58-33 85th Street, Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y. Answers and questions will appear in Ebba Nus, when of general interest. Others will be answered by mail.

Mr. Bell of North Carolina wishes to engage an enthusiastic young camp counselor who would undertake banding and bird study as a major activity next summer.

Miss Von Borowsky of Florida has been unable to attract Killdeer to her Mason trap. What bait and trap is best for attracting this species?

Mrs. Dumont of New Jersey, wants to know how to trap crows and Whip-poor-wills. She would like to know what percentage of returns other banders get with White-throated Sparrows. Has had none after banding 700 during past five years.

Please tell any bird bander you contact or any friend interested in ornithology about this Association. Get them to become a member. The larger we grow the more often we can issue "Ebba Nus". Send membership dues of \$2.50 a year to William Pepper, Jr., 110 Glenview Ave., Wyncote, Pa. We could use much more space to tell you many interesting things about the activities of our members.