December 1949

EBBA NEWS

A second purpose of the News is to promote cooperative activities of the membership. Local meetings, studies involving several banding stations, and compilation, study, and publication of data from many stations are such activities which have received notice in past issues of the News. Members who have projects of this kind in mind will receive all of the cooperation your Editor can provide.

As a recent friendly argument in and out of the News has shown, the EBBA is composed of people who band birds for several diverse reasons. Some are motivated by the collector's urge to accumulate data; others enjoy handling these wild, elusive, and beautiful creatures; still others are seeking a solution to some scientific problem. It is my hope that the News can be interesting, stimulating, and useful to all of our members regardless of the reasons why they are banders.

What happened to the Song Sparrow on the cover? It seems that in the confusion surrounding the change in Editors and printers the cut was misplaced. Perhaps it will turn up again later.

A "new" Common Tern colony located on Democrat Point which forms the south side of Fire Island Inlet is reported by Mr. Oakleigh Thorne, II. He estimated that 1000 pair of Common Terns and several hundred Herring Gulls were nesting there with a few Black Skimmers. About a mile to the east there was a small colony of Least Terns. He was able to band 200 Common Terns, 4 Black Skimmers, 2 Herring Gulls, and 5 Least Terns, all as young birds. A banded, adult, Common Tern was found dead. It had been banded by EBBA member Leroy Wilcox on July 4, 1945 at Inlet Island, Moriches Bay, Long Island, which is about 30 miles east of Democrat Point.

Frank Frazier of Montclair, New Jersey, has had notable success with barberry berries as a bait for Hermit Thrushes. He and Mrs. Frazier caught twelve in one week, mostly in a one-cell top-opening trap placed on a stump about two feet high under a three-foot bird bath. A large bush five feet away provided cover and a dead branch stuck in the ground right beside the bath served as a perch.