

gun with wide scatter-pattern; birds are 'caught' by pellets of lead." Game Wardens, he says, are stumped by this robin-killing, as growers feel they must protect their brief crop. . . .

Selah Lester (E. Hampton, L. I.) "Had a little over 2000 birds for the year." (meaning calendar yr. 1948???) "Bird found dead 10/18/48, Huntington, L. I. 39-255125 was Towhee banded by me 9/29/48. (Mr. Gill had inquired in EBBANUS.)

Irl Rogers (Modesto, Cal.) on May 2, '48 banded just 500 Cedar Waxwings! ("Could have banded many more, but sick and tired"). Uses 3 Modesto Funnel traps. . . Near a raisin factory where refuse dumped out for weeks serves as bait. . . Rogers' season record must be a wonder. Let's have it, Irl, together with any useful data on Waxwings, which few banders band.

When you write in records or other data, specify exactly *the months* covered. This is an editor's prayer to all of you. (N. Y. State demands Reports Feb. 1).

Merrill Wood: "Barn Owl, nestling, banded at State College, Pa. 6/22/48, shot in Eudora, Ark. 11/7/48—about 60 days after it left its tower nest."

SIMPLE SANDPIPER TRAP—It is made of one-inch-mesh poultry wire, one foot wide; fish netting stretched over the top. The compartment is circular, two feet in diameter. A "door" eight inches high and seven wide is made with a T-shaped cut, the ends bent back in the

form of acute angles. Lengths of poultry wire about six feet long are attached to the outside of the trap at the side of the "door". Such a trap takes up little room to transport, and it is very light.—W. M. Davidson, 1504 Bodell St., Orlando, Florida.

The case comes up of those advertised Sparrow Traps (including "Dodson's Famous Sparrow Trap" recently advertised in Nature Mag.) in the hands of the public for "eliminating sparrows"—no species specified! \$16.50 f. o. b. It is likely many native species are caught and killed. Any reader know of such case or cases? Write EBBANUS ED. And why not write Nature Mag. protesting such ads? Above all, why not all of us write to Fish & Wildlife Commission, (Patuxent and/or Washington) inquiring HOW ABOUT IT?—Don't such traps have to be handled by *licensed Banders*? Member Dr. Paul H. Fluck, M. D., Lambertville, N. J., writes that he has (recently, I assume) caught in sparrow Traps only 11 English, but over 200 Whitethroat Sparrows. Editor shudders to imagine what general public must be doing to a lot of the wild American sparrow tribe with those traps; not distinguishing our wild species from the English breed! Let's all write F & W L Service!

By the way, Editor is broadcasting week-ly over WALL (1340 KC) at Middletown, N. Y. 15 minutes. "Meet Mother Nature!" Gets fine chances to plug conservation and preservation. Also plugs "If you find a banded bird, report its band

number to me!" "Look at legs of every dead bird you happen to find!" etc. Try it out over your own local station.

Have you shortages of Red Shoulders and/or Broadwings in your vicinity this season? Normal numbers? More than usual? Please report by card to EBBA-NUSED. By the way, again, don't you think that wide-area reports on fluctuations in bird populations is one of the best news that this News Letter can print from time to time? Let's hear from YOU!

Louise De Kiriline Lawrence sort of agrees with Dick Fischer's paper 'Banders Should Specialize', but B. S. Bowdish disagrees.

Lawrence: We miss so much when we band a large volume of species. With 56 birds file-carded (Returns and all) carrying information on such things as weight, general condition, sex assured, moults, age, fatness, etc. I have reaped a rich reward on Chickadees. If I tried to band - as - many - birds - as - possible, I should not have got so much useful material. . . She feels that a lot of close work done on a species or two may yield more knowledge than does wide, generous banding of all comers.

Bowdish: Were I situated so I could devote all my time to banding, I might specialize. . . Still, the more banding done, just hit-or-miss, the more chances of (recovery) results, say we. A crow banded by chance June 1917 turns up Oct. 1924 near by. . . . Junce

banded in Minnesota 10/17/23; I caught here (Demarest, N. J.) 1/9/26. Chance-banding, but gave me "great kicks".

Editorial comment: Let's all of us do BOTH. Say, have one carefully attended to Specialty; and do all the indiscriminate banding we can also.

Bowdish says that between 3/2/49 and 4/3/49 "I have banded 5 males (colored) and 9 uncolored: definitely by far the largest percentage of coloreds in our experience with *Purple Finches*." (Will B. S. B. please write us a piece on coloreds and uncoloreds, so we'll know just what he is writing about!)

Brother Bowdish informs us that a White-throat banded by him at Demarest on April 1, '47, was "found dead" by Warren Hawkins, Cedar Grove, N. C., Nov. 3, '48. And a Mourning Dove he banded also at Demarest, July 2, '45, was "shot" by a fellow in Doe Run, Coquitt Co., Ga. Dec. 24, '48.—Two nice, average records.

Editor doesn't know whether the following items (in a Port Credit, Ontario, paper) have fallen under any EBBA eyes. Lucy McDougall wrote 'em as an active bander: "It has become known that a Great Horned Owl lives at least 12 years and eight months. This particular bird was banded in nest 4/17/27; shot 11/23/39—in same State, California." Same lady bander writes further: "A black-capped Chickadee lived to 9 years, 4

months . . ." She banded in 1948 some 493 birds. Got 5 Returns. Good going! We are going to print some more about Specialization of banding soon.

Pertaining to the subject of Winter Visitants changing their winter-quarters, the following note is of some interest: An adult Whitethroat was trapped and banded at Mr. Arthur Fast's station at Arlington, Va., 11/6/47. Bird repeated four times, until 12/7/47. "On 12/4/48 I trapped it at Laurel, Md., roughly 25 miles NNE of Arlington. Bird retaken by me 12/28/48 and 3/10/49. In excellent condition. This suggests the sparrow to be a true winter visitant to the general region and not a seasonal migrant." However, as Mr. Fast has suggested, it is of interest to speculate as to whither it betook itself after 12/7/47; previous to its north migration in the Spring. (Re-

ported by W. M. Davidson, Box 66, Laurel, Md.)

Sad news is just received of the sudden death of member Ralph E. Wetzell. He was high school Principal at Boiling Springs, Pa. when he died there June 4th. Locally he was prominent and highly respected. So go we all one day—when the trap springs!

Concluding Reminder: 300-odd EBBA BANDERS can't all be wrong. But evidently a majority have somehow reached the idea that EBBA's official Editor is the fellow who writes its News Letter. All wrong, sirs, all wrong. It's you girls and boys out there who are going to write it! Let's hear how!

Changes of Address should be sent to the Editor as far in advance as possible.