

Dr. Carlton M. Herman also writes:

"I have noted with interest the reports concerning avian diseases in the August and September, 1950, issues of "Ebba News". It is indeed regretful that there are not a large number of pathologists available to examine such sick or dead birds for the purpose of making a diagnosis. A few pathologists who might be interested in this field of endeavor have specific projects which they are investigating. Most of them have very limited staffs and are therefore not in a position to add such duties to their already overburdened programs. Sometimes a limited amount of such service work is feasible, particularly if the problem ties in more or less directly with their regular program. Most of the pathologists who would be in a position to handle such material are working primarily on poultry diseases and could justify such work only insofar as it relates to the poultry problems.

"Among our problems under investigation here at the Patuxent Research Refuge we are studying the trichomoniasis disease of mourning doves. We are particularly anxious to learn of all observations of this infection and would be glad to receive any sick or dead mourning doves for examination."

BIOGRAPHY

EBBA News has mentioned Mr. Arthur Fast of Arlington, Va. from time to time. Herewith we publish his autobiography.

Arthur H. Fast (4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Va.) believes that his considerable interest in birds and wildlife generally dates from his participation in March, 1939, in one of the National Audubon Society's Okeechobee-Kissimmee Florida Tours, Alexander Sprunt leader. Shortly thereafter he and Mrs. Fast moved to their Arlington home where the grounds and surroundings were suitable for attracting birds. From January 18 to May 13, 1946 the rare (for the area) Evening Grosbeaks came regularly. See EBBA News Vol. 9, No. 12; and Vol. 10, No. 4. He obtained his banding permit about March 1, 1946 and banded 51 of the Grosbeaks. One of them was recovered in April, 1949 by the B. M. Shaubs in Northampton, Mass. In the spring of 1947 there was an irruption of Cedar Waxwings. From March 8 to May 13, 1947 Mr. Fast banded 875 Cedar Waxwings. See EBBA News Vol. 10, No. 12. In the 4½ years to Oct. 1, 1950, he has banded over 4500 small land birds (none of them colonial) of 40 species. The list is headed by White-Throats (945), Cedar Waxwings (875),

Juncos (543, Song Sparrows (436), Cardinals (280) and Purple Finches (244). Many of his banded birds (including 38 White-Throats) have returned to his traps after an absence of at least one season. Twenty-two of his banded birds have been recovered from Quebec and New Brunswick, Canada to Louisiana. He has recovered only one bird banded by another - a Goldfinch banded at Milton, Mass.

Mr. Fast is a member of 7 national and local ornithological organizations. In July 1949 he attended the Audubon Camp of California. He has given 25 talks on birds to adult, youth and childrens groups. He regularly leads local bird walks. Groups and individuals frequently visit his station. During the winter and spring, the Fast's keep open house every Saturday morning to receive those who come to observe and to learn.

HAWKS

Dr. Paul H. Fluck sent in a clipping describing his adventures with a Red-tailed Hawk, which appeared in "The Country Gentleman". It was in the form of a letter reading as follows:

"Dear Editors: Several months ago when a husky red-tailed hawk was brought to me with a clipped set of wing feathers, I was hard pressed to find him a suitable boardinghouse. With some misgiving, he was tossed into a nearby chicken house with a full quota of chickens..... and the worst was anticipated.

"Three months passed during which the hawk fraternized almost affectionately with chicks and chickens. Nary a chicken was missed. But the mice and rats which once fattened on laying mash were meticulously eliminated.

"This hawk is now living in another chicken house with other chickens at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary near Hamburg, Pa. In due time, a new set of wing feathers will carry him to freedom in the blue sky at which he gazes all day.

"Contrary to popular belief, few hawks are "chicken" hawks. This red-tailed hawk and most other hawks are hard-working rodent exterminators, immensely valuable to poultrymen and farmers."

It was illustrated with a photograph of the hawk on a roost with some young chickens.

Dr. Fluck also asks an interesting question - "Have you ever used mounted birds as decoys?" Well - have we - let's hear about it.