

ANNUAL MEETING ISSUE

The Annual Meeting of EBBA was held in the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, Md. on March 31, 1951. At nine-thirty A.M. President Groskin presided over the meeting of the Council with the following officers and members answering the roll-call: President Groskin, Treasurer Merrill Wood, Rev. Stoehr, R. J. Middleton, Dr. Harold B. Wood, R. O. Bender. Dr. Carlton M. Herman, a former President and first Editor of EBBA News was present as a guest. On a motion from the floor the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with. A report from the Treasurer was approved. It was as follows:

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR 1950 - 51Receipts

Balance from 1949-50 (on April 1, 1950)	\$ 483.60
Membership dues	500.00
Subscriptions to Bird-Banding	344.00
Contributions	12.50
Sale of back copies of EBBA NEWS	5.00
Sale of banding equipment made by Mr. Geoffrey Gill	24.75
Trap auction at annual meeting	15.00
Total receipts	\$1384.85

Disbursements

Publication of the EBBA NEWS	\$ 584.52
Expenses of Treasurer	34.35
Bank charges (foreign exchange fees)	1.03
Expenses of annual meeting	20.00
Subscriptions to BIRD-BANDING (\$4. received in 1949)	348.00
Total disbursements	\$ 987.90

Balance Sheet

Total receipts	\$1384.85
Total disbursements	987.90
Balance (on March 31, 1951)	\$ 396.95
Number of members gained	14
Number of members lost	75
Number of members in the E.B.B.A. on March 31, 1951	260
of which 32 are in arrears.	

March 31, 1951
Merrill Wood, Treas.

Considerable discussion of this report followed, centering around the obvious fact that there is not sufficient money in the treasury to continue publication of the News in its present form. Various suggestions were made by members of the Council. It was finally moved and passed that the necessary changes be left to the discretion of the Editor. (Editor's Note: The most probable change would be to a mimeographed News.) It was moved, seconded and carried that the News should continue to be issued monthly.

The Council approved a request by the Editor to print the May-June numbers, containing the Junco Symposium, as a single issue in order to facilitate keeping this material together.

There being no further business the Council adjourned.

President Groskin opened the Scientific Session by introducing Mr. E. Alexander Bergstrom, Editor of "Bird-Banding", who discussed the plans for that journal. Perhaps the most important change will be to reduce the coverage of Ornithological literature to permit more thorough critical reviews of the important papers, particularly those related to banding. Mr. Bergstrom also stressed the need for good papers and more "general notes". "Bird-Banding", in common with virtually all scientific publications, is in need of additional funds which can best be obtained by additional subscriptions. If you are a member of EBBA you can save \$1.00 on your subscription to "Bird-Banding", obtain EBBA membership and the subscription for \$6.00 per year. Non-member subscriptions to "Bird-Banding" cost \$5.00 per year. For the present you should send your money to our Treasurer, Mr. Merrill Wood. Mr. Bergstrom also mentioned that future issues would contain lists of cooperations banding more than 100 birds during the past year. He also hopes to include a summary list of the members of birds banded by species in a future issue.

The next paper was presented by Dr. Charles H. Blake, President of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association on "Age Criteria for Banded Birds". He discussed changes in the color of the soft parts with age, speaking particularly of the iris, the gape, the inside of the mouth, the bill, legs, and feet. Color changes of these parts take place rather rapidly, for the most part, during the early months of a bird's life.

Dr. Blake then presented a proposal for the organization of a North American Bird-Banding Association. Dr. Blake mentioned some of the advantages of such an organization as follows:

1. It would provide bird-banders with a more effective voice in support of continued and expanded banding operations. In a period of ostensible government economy pressure might be exerted to curtail banding activities - a movement which a nation-wide organization might effectively resist.
2. It would lend strength to the publication of a scientific journal covering banding activities (probably but not necessarily the present journal - Bird-Banding) by broadening its support among the banders.
3. It would not necessarily reduce the activities or importance of the present regional associations.

Dr. Blake's proposal was that the regional associations appoint representatives to consider the form and desirability of such an association - this action not implying any commitment on the part of the regional group to join the prospective North American Association.

Discussion from the floor centered around the effect such an organization might have on the present regional associations, particularly on their membership. The fear was expressed that if membership in a national organization were made mandatory, with the higher dues required to support the journal, then the present associations might suffer a severe loss of membership. Mr. Groskin also mentioned the probability that attendance at national meetings might be too small to justify an attempt to hold them. It was suggested that if membership in the national association were optional to present and new members of the regional groups, the first objection would be overcome. Your Editor suggests that if you have ideas on the desirability of a national organization you should write to our President, Mr. Groskin, giving him the benefit of your thoughts. Since no formal action was taken at the meeting the proposal is being held in abeyance; hence, your letters should greatly assist Mr. Groskin and the Council in formulating EBBA poling on this matter.

It might be noted that your thoughts would be valuable on these two questions:

1. Is it desirable for EBBA to appoint representatives to explore the practicality of forming a North American Bird-Banding Association with the other regional groups?
2. Do you favor the formation of such an organization? What are your suggestions regarding its relationship to the present regional associations?

Mr. Seth Low, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, presented the next paper on "A Discussion of the Bird-Banding Program". Mr. Low reviewed some of the activities of the program quite briefly and then discussed the arrangements for Sunday's field trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge in some detail.

The next paper, by Dr. David E. Davis, of Johns Hopkins University, discussed methods of conducting an "Analysis of Population from Bird-Banding Studies". Dr. Davis' mathematical treatment of banding data was simple enough for your Editor to understand and consequently for EBBA members in general. Since many banders probably have data which can be treated in this way, a summary of Dr. Davis' discussion will probably appear in a future issue of the News.

In the first afternoon paper, Dr. Carlton M. Herman of the Patuxent Research Refuge spoke of his work on "Mourning Dove Diseases". This interesting paper will be reported in greater detail at a later date.

Dr. John Aldrich of the Fish and Wildlife Service spoke of "Bird-Banding in Wildlife Research". He described the methods used in studying banding data to assist in the game management programs of the Service and also of the use being made of banding data in numerous studies of non-game birds.

President Groskin presented a paper on "A Plumage Study of Banded Eastern Goldfinches". This paper, which paid particular attention to the changes in the plumage of male Goldfinches with age, will undoubtedly be published in full elsewhere.

Mr. Raymond J. Middleton described the results of "Thirty Years of Banding at Norristown, Pa." Mr. Middleton, one of our most successful banders of passerines, quoted figures of members of individuals of species banded which caused many members, your Editor included, to turn green with envy. This paper will probably also be made available through other channels.

A discussion of "Species Symposia" was presented by your Editor. You may read more about this later.

Mr. Arthur H. Fast, of Arlington, Va., told the members about a novel idea which he had exploited to "Carry the Banding Message to the Grassroots". He prepared booklets describing common species of birds, commenting on reporting bands found on dead birds, etc. The novel part was that he had found a storekeeper who sells bird seed, along with hardware, etc., who had several thousand copies of each of several booklets printed for free distribution to his customers. Mr. Fast would gladly send copies of each booklet to interested members.

This concluded the Scientific Session. In the absence of Mr. Hebard, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Chandler Robbins presented the nominees for 1951. They were as follows:

All present officers were nominated for reelection. It was moved and passed that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for these nominees.

From a field of five nominees, three presented by the Committee and two nominated from the floor, the following were elected as Councillors for the term ending in 1954:

Mr. Orville Crowder
Dr. Harold B. Wood
Mrs. Elinor Dater

It was moved and passed that the Association extend its appreciation to the Local Committee on Arrangements - Mr. Orville Crowder, Chairman - for its excellent work in planning and arranging this meeting.

The Association reconvened at the Parish House of the Unitarian Church for dinner. A delicious turkey dinner was served by the ladies of the church. After the meal, there was an informal discussion of traps and trapping techniques, which developed so much interest that your Editor wishes to announce a Symposium on trapping methods for the October issue. If you have questions on traps please send them in promptly so they can be printed in the July issue. In this way practical answers may be obtained for the Symposium.

We then saw the moving picture "The Tawny Pipit", which portrayed the efforts of a group of British bird watchers to protect the nesting of a rare bird with that gentle humor which the English have mastered so well.

On Sunday, April 1, the Association and guests visited the Patuxent Research Refuge. Space will not permit a detailed description of the trip in this issue - perhaps it can be covered in later ones. We saw many kinds of traps in action, Japanese mist nets, the files and records of the banding activity, the gracious ladies who preside over them, and were conducted on a tour where we saw other research activities of the refuge.

Total attendance at the meeting was 106, of whom 28 were EBBA members. Many of the others were families of members and the balance were guests and members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. This Society served as hosts for the meeting and the EBBA is very grateful to them for their excellent hospitality.