

Mrs. Howard G. McEntee, an active bander and new member of EBBA's Council, contributes the following:

"I had a very interesting experience a few weeks ago - May 10th to be exact, a dull, chilly day noted for two reasons. First, it produced the first pronounced wave of warblers to go through my place, - the birch trees seemed filled with Magnolias, Cape Mays, Yellows, Black-throated Blues, Redstarts, etc; second, it provided us with a very interesting and lively pet. All morning, interspersed with warbler notes an occasional series of harsh notes was heard. Being busy in the garden, I didn't take the time to follow it up, although all the time in the back of my mind it was puzzling me, but in the afternoon from the kitchen window I noticed a very unusual bird near my Middleton drip trap. Getting the binoculars on it, I still couldn't figure out what it was - a peculiar shade of green with dark edgings on the wing feathers - but suddenly it turned around and then I saw its bill and knew I might shortly trap a Parakeet! Sure enough, in a minute or so it walked right into the drip trap. I found it minus a tail but otherwise unharmed, and so this is the story of how we acquired a new pet."

A QUERY

Mrs. McEntee also writes, "Hardly a day passes now that the doorbell doesn't ring and there stand some eager kids with a baby bird for me. What can you do? I have talked myself hoarse this winter to scout troops telling them not to pick up baby birds but to leave them alone so the parents can take care of them. But inevitably the kids come, and sometimes their parents, too, but one and all are urged firmly to go right back where they found the bird, put it in a reasonably safe place, and walk away. This place would soon be a good sized zoo if I even attempted to bring up these poor waifs. Anyway, the bird's chances of survival are just as good as they would be if reared by a human. My percentage of successful rearings is practically zero, so I just refuse to do it anymore. What I would like to know is, how do other banders cope with this problem?"

Can anyone help Mrs. McEntee?

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