

plastics I've never discovered.*

"We have had very good luck with plastic bands. Just as in the case of the metal bands, it is a matter of careful fitting and proper sealing. A few seconds used to roll the plastic band after it has been placed around the tarsus fits it snugly and comfortably. A drop of acetone, a few additional seconds of holding the fitted band while the acetone evaporates, and the job is done. We have had at least three instances of Evening Grosbeaks returning to us with their aluminum bands missing but with the identifying plastics intact. And we have proof that this species DOES remove bands from its own legs when the No. 2 size is applied."

* * *

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Dues for 1954 are now payable. If you haven't paid up yet, why not send your check for \$2.00, or more if you wish, to Merrill Wood, Treasurer, 811 N. Allen St., State College, Penna.

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BANDING BARN OWLS

by Howard Drinkwater, Old Road, Whitehouse, N.J.

(Editor's Note: The foregoing was mailed by Mr. Drinkwater in August of 1952 and received by the Editor in December 1953. Therefore, in addition to the original article, we have a newer one bringing the project up to date.)

Barn Owls, according to the last release I have from the Fish and Wildlife Service, have not been banded in the numbers that one might expect for a bird of such general distribution.

From Paul M. Stewart's article in THE AUK for July 1952, I find that of the total number of Barn Owls banded (2298), only 336 individuals yielded returns, and of that number only 21 were reported for my own state, New Jersey.

*Perhaps Seth Low will comment on this.-Ed.

Consideration of these facts leads me to believe that my own experience in banding Barn Owls may be of interest to other banders in the eastern area.

It might be well to state at the outset that I am a newcomer in the field, my permit, number 7000, being issued to me in December 1951.

In the spring of 1952 I decided to add to my general operations a special project--locating and banding the Barn Owls in the general area of my station. The results exceeded my expectations.

With the help of a friend who is an experienced climber, a search of all the likely places was started in May. When the silos and local church steeples were found untenanted, we turned our attention to two water tanks along a railroad right of way. Tank A is situated within the village, tank B about a mile distant.

On May 15th we discovered and banded five nestlings in tank A and three in tank B. The nests were on narrow planks a few feet above water, and the birds were in constant danger of falling off and drowning. For that reason, extreme care was used in handling them, and the site was left alone until we were satisfied that the birds had reached maturity.

On July 17th both tanks were again inspected. Tank A appeared to be deserted although, as it later developed, there were young birds in the nest on that date. In tank B we found and banded six new nestlings.

August 11th, we again inspected tank A, and banded the six nestlings that we had overlooked on July 17th. Tank B was not revisited at that time as we were sure that the July birds had not left the nest.

Our total now stands at 20 nestlings banded at the two sites. Periodic inspections will be made through the fall and winter. We hope to extend our activities next spring (1953) and believe that a careful search will result in the discovery of more nesting places.

(The following is the more recent account, telling of work

during 1953 in banding Barn Owls.--Ed.)

Contrary to our expectations, the 1953 season was disappointing. We first checked the nesting sites in early February. In one, we found two downy young and two eggs. In the others, the old birds were in occupancy, but there were neither eggs nor young. The site containing the two young, a water tower, was undergoing repairs, and we feared for the birds. Although the workmen were sympathetic, they had to finish their job. Five days later, with the work completed, we found the site abandoned and the young birds and eggs gone.

The old birds later returned to the tower, and on April 23rd there were eggs in the nest. Three young were hatched, and we banded them on June 5th. On the same day we discovered the eggs in the water tower, we located another roost in a church belfry which contained 6 eggs. They all hatched, and the young were banded June 15.

In 1952, as mentioned above, we banded nine birds in another water tower which we hoped would produce for us again in 1953. Adult birds were there in February, but although we checked the nest frequently, we could find neither eggs nor young. In April, we found the reason when we flushed a full-grown Raccoon from the tower. Despite the fact that the only way he could have got in was up a steel ladder some sixty feet high, the animal must have felt it worth his while to raid the nest. It was impossible to live-trap the animal and illegal to shoot it. It is possible that it returned at frequent intervals. The old birds stayed in the tower all season but produced no young.

We continued to check the nest sites through the summer, but there were no more broods. We did, however, locate a new site in another church belfry. There were two adults there. As they elected to hide themselves in the top of the tall spire, we were able to haul them down and band them. They will, we hope, give us two more broods to work with in 1954.

We are also hopeful that this year we may be able to discover additional nesting places. Unfortunately for us and for the owls, many of the church belfries are lined inside with chicken wire to bar the Starlings and Pigeons. So far we have not been able to convince

any of our church brethren that a family of Barn Owls might keep their buildings clear of the objectionable birds.

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THE 1954 SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

This list of sustaining members of EBBA for 1954 was reported by Treasurer Merrill Wood as of January 4.

William O. Astle	Malcolm J. Lerch
Mrs. John E. Bacon	Leonard M. Llewellyn
E. Alexander Bergstrom	Seth H. Low
Beecher S. Bowdish	Mrs. A. P. Maness
Mrs. Herbert E. Carnes	Bennett K. Matlack
Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr.	H. Elliott McClure
Albert E. Conway	John T. Nichols
Mrs. Albert E. Conway	G. Hapgood Parks
Mrs. John Y. Dater, Jr.	The Reverend Walden Pell, II
Dr. Ralph R. DeLury	William Pepper
Rodolphe M. deSchauensee	James N. Rice
John Dornan	Chandler S. Robbins
Howard Drinkwater	William E. Schantz
Arthur H. East	Mrs. Irene E. Sick
Frank P. Frazier	Roy H. Smith
Waldemar H. Fries	Mrs. Leslie A. Stauber
Geoffrey Gill	Charles A. Stratton
John A. Gillespie	Mrs. Ernest E. Wanek
Christian J. Goetz	Olin P. Wearn
Henry O. Havemeyer	Dr. Carnes Weeks
Dr. Carlton M. Herman	Charles S. Weiser
Joseph A. Jacobs	Dr. Harold B. Wood
Howard A. W. Kates	Mrs. Harold B. Wood

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ANOTHER EBBA EXCLUSIVE

On April 19, 1952, E. Alexander Bergstrom, banded a Slate-colored Junco at his home in East Hartford, Connecticut; on October 29, 1953, E. Earl Rider trapped it (No. 51-20380) at Easton, Penna., while operating as a sub-permittee under his daughter, Mrs. Albert E. Conway.