

## COMMENTS

Dr. Paul H. Fluck, Lambertville, New Jersey, says:

"Aside from the two male Cowbirds that killed each other -- and that we found locked in their death struggle on the lawn of the Nature Center (at Washington Crossing Park, Penna.) -- note this observation on band sizes. Is this what often happens to bands we put on hawks?

"Our Broad-wing -- which was shot through the wing, is mending now -- and, fearful lest she get away unbanded, I slipped a number 5 band on her leg, closing the band firmly. I have banded Broad-wing nestlings before, but, of course, could not observe the outcome. This time, I put the Broad-wing in her cage and returned an hour later to find the band open and almost off. The bird's leg was sore and bleeding badly. I removed the band, and now, ten days later, the leg is healed but still shows a scar.

"I noted, on placing the band on this female Broad-wing, that her legs become conical just where the band is placed. The band thus becomes loose above and tight below. In Europe, the banders use bands with locking devices for herons and large hawks. I laughed at these old-fashioned devices, but the European banders insisted they were worth the extra cost. Perhaps they are right!

"I have not seen this happen to adult Red-tails or Sharpies, but I wonder if the shape of the Broad-wing's lower leg isn't the cause of the trouble.

"Anyhow, I'm hesitating to band my bird again with a 5 band. I may use a 6; or, should we shape the band to correspond to the conical lower tarsus?"

\* \* \*

## MORE ABOUT THE COVER

Dr. Harold B. Wood, 3016 N. Second St., Harrisburg, Pa., has this to say about the current cover of EBBA NEWS (which will be changed with the May-June issue):

"Your July-August EBBA NEWS is really very excellent. That includes