

RAYMOND MIDDLETON SCORES A TRIUMPH!

At the regular meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club held on Thursday evening, March 17, in The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Raymond J. Middleton, former EBBA President, spoke on "Thirty-three Years of Bird Banding at Norristown". His talk was excellently illustrated with 35mm slides taken and projected by his son, Raymond J. Middleton, Jr.

Mr. Middleton has banded 133 species and 40,843 individuals, which, together with repeats and returns, means that over 83,000 birds have been handled. Thirty-five species of warblers have been banded, all the species found in this area excepting the Cerulean. The speaker reported that the majority of his warblers are taken in ground traps with water as the bait.

In speaking of the Crested Flycatcher, Mr. Middleton reported that only 15 adults have supplied him with a breeding pair each year over a twenty-three years period.

Concerning House Wrens, he said that on only one occasion has a pair remained mated for more than one brood. In two instances, a male bird was mated with two females simultaneously, one on each side of the house.

When a picture of five nestling Screech Owls was shown, Mr. Middleton said that young Screech Owls all look alike when you look at them yet they all look different in a picture.

Following his talk, both Mr. Middleton and his son were warmly applauded for their presentation, after which various members paid tribute to Mr. Middleton's leading part in the securing of Audubon's "Mill Grove" as a part of the Montgomery County Park System and for his untiring efforts as President, for the 26th years, of the Norristown Audubon Club.--A.E.C.

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COWBIRDS -- INSTINCT OR COINCIDENCE?
by Arthur O. Stone, Jr.

For the past two seasons, I have had three flat traps as my only means to capture ground feeders. The first season netted me quite a few Cowbirds. Last season, along with the newly banded, I had some 25 Cow-