

NEWS OF EBBA MEMBERS

Dr. John W. Brainerd, Associate Professor of Biology, Springfield College, and Regional Chairman of Conservation, National Association of Biology Teachers, sends the following comment about EBBA member William A. Tompkins' lecture on "Research Through Bird Banding", one of a series given at the Museum of Natural History, Springfield, Massachusetts, on Sunday afternoons. Dr. Brainerd modestly forgets to mention that he, himself, is giving one of the lectures in the current series, entitled, "What's in a Brush Pile?". It is encouraging to hear that EBBA members are actively engaged in presenting banding and conservation information to the general public. --A.E.C.

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AN ACTIVE DUCK BANDING PROJECT

This story and the picture on the next page, both from the Buffalo (N.Y.) Evening News, were sent in by Mrs. Herman F. Kuch, Jr., 1002 Crest Road, Philadelphia 31.--Editor

Dunkirk Club's Duck-Banding Efforts Widely Acclaimed

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National, State Awards Given for Conservation Work

DUNKIRK, Feb. 2—Working on an around-the-clock schedule, members of the Northern Chautauqua Conservation Club of Dunkirk have resumed their sensation-ally-successful duck-banding operations that already have brought the club state and national acclaim.

From Dec. 30 until Wednesday, five members of the club have trapped, banded and released 820 diving ducks in Dunkirk Harbor to advance the cause of conservation. Members expect they will far exceed last year's total of 987 banded ducks, which brought them the first-place Louis Wehle award of \$1000 for its project, which was judged the outstanding conservation project in New York State for 1955.

In addition to the state award, the club recently received an award from Outdoor Life Magazine national publication, for meritorius service for conserva-tion.

The banding started after the close of the duck-hunting season. It will continue until April 10.

The Dunkirk club members worked in co-operation with the New York State Conservation Department, which supplied the chicken wire for the traps as well as corn used for baiting them.

The idea of trying to band diving ducks was conceived by Frank Kuhn and Robert Withington after they noticed large flocks of the birds feeding in the Dunkirk Harbor. Warm water from the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation steam station on the west edge of the harbor keeps the harbor free of ice, even in the coldest weather.

State conservation officials agreed to co-operate with Mr. Kuhn and Mr. Withington, since previous efforts to band diving ducks had produced meager results. The two Dunkirk men, aided by other club members, prepared and set out the traps.

Early results were not too good, but the Dunkirkers experimented with putting the traps in different positions than had been customary on such projects and eventually found places where they began getting excellent results.

During three months in 1954-55, club members banded and released 987 ducks, 558 in one 16-day period. This total was more than 300 greater than all the other banding stations in New York State had banded in the previous six years.

Hunters shooting any of the banded ducks are asked to mail the band to Washington, giving the date and place where the kill occurred. In this way conservationists secure data on the migratory habits of these ducks.

So far, 14 of the bands put on in Dunkirk have been reported to Washington. The ducks were killed in various locations from Manitoba to Long Island.