

## OUR NEW OFFICERS

## President

Dr. PAUL H. FLUCK, Washington Crossing Park, Pa.

## Vice Presidents

Joseph M. Cadbury, Eleanor (Mrs. John Y. Jr.) Dater, Richard D. Cole

## Secretary

Rev. GARRETT S. DETWILER  
194 Seventh St.  
Salem, New Jersey

## Treasurer

Mrs. STANLEY S. DICKERSON  
222 DeVoe Ave.  
Spotswood, New Jersey

## Councillors

Class of '57 - Orville Crowder, Gordon Hight, R. J. Middleton  
" " '58 - Maurice Broun, Arthur H. Fast, Mrs. Howard McEntee  
" " '59 - Geoffrey Gill, William Pepper, Merrill Wood

## EBBA'S NEW PRESIDENT SAYS:

Bird-banding is entering a Periclean era. This must have been apparent to every bander in the Washington Crossing Inn on April 21st. One after another each of the 79 banders present rose and stated in round numbers the birds he had banded during the first 15 weeks of 1956. The indomitable Reverend Detwiler had banded 3200. Alexander Bergstrom had taken 2900. Maurice Broun had ringed a thousand Evening Grosbeaks during the winter. Ed Noll, whose banding permit was less than three months old, had more than 1800 birds in his record book. One bander had taken 575 robins last year. Another bander in northern New Jersey had banded 250 Redpolls. To the older banders present, it must have been hard to believe.

Old style one cell traps and pull strings necessarily limited banders to a few hundred birds annually. Read Seth Low's tabulation of banding totals in the April 1951 issue of Bird Banding. In 1950 only two banders in the country topped 3,000 birds! Only 35 banders ringed a thousand. Topnotch banders like Chandler Robbins, Alexander Bergstrom, Frank Frazier, and even Seth Low himself, were all in the 500 to 1,000 class. In 1950 only 54 private banders in the U. S. A. took more than 500 birds. 298 banders reported less than 100. A vast

majority of the birds taken were ground feeding species. Vireos, warblers, and flycatchers were hardly sampled.

Mist netting and all-purpose traps have taken bird banding out of low gear. Today for \$25.00 any bander with a suburban backyard can buy enough banding equipment to band 2,000 birds annually. A bander can specialize in warblers, flycatchers, vireos, or -- as one man does -- in woodcock! But -- and it's a big BUT -- in the banding of song birds, banding is only half the job. With game birds, recoveries are no problem. The hunting season takes care of that. But any bander who really takes his birds seriously, and wants to hear from them, is going to have to do a lot of missionary work. If the banders in the Washington Crossing Inn had been asked to state the number of recoveries they had been getting the total for the room might not have exceeded one hundred for the same 15 week period.

Here then, is the weak spot in our banding program. Better banding tools are now in our hands, but for recoveries we must still rely on good luck, and public interest. Each of us owes it to ourselves, and to our banding associates to spread the word, and to stimulate an interest in looking for bands.

One bander I know takes a five minute walk along the highway near his banding station, every morning all year around. Your president carries a string of bands in his pocket and shows them to the mailman, hardware clerk, Scout Leaders, or any citizen -- of any age or sex, anytime, any place, and every place. You don't have to take every Boy Scout in your town around your trap line to stimulate an interest in looking for bands. Just send for some of those Banding Posters put out by the Inland Banding Association, and give one to your scout leader to hang in his council room. Usually there's room for a poster on the bulletin board at local elementary schools. Even an ordinary recovery is sure to rate a few paragraphs in your local paper if you phone the editor. And one recovery -- with publicity, can hatch a dozen more.

This year let us resolve to read our bands more carefully, to write band numbers down immediately, to keep an eye open for that dead bird along the road. If your neighbor reports some banded birds on his feeder, you know that he is looking for them on dead birds too. Thank

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your friends for a banding recovery, even if it is only a starling you banded the day before.

And let's start talking about the returns we got and the recoveries we get, with as much emphasis as we do about the bushels of birds we band. The new era of bird banding has dawned. By doing some leg work, we can see the birth of a new band recovery era too.

-- Paul H. Fluck



**SEE THIS LEG BAND?**

SAY NEIGHBOR, MORE THAN 6,000,000 WILD BIRDS ARE WEARING LEG BANDS. PLEASE RETURN THE BANDS FOUND ON THESE BIRDS TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, WASHINGTON 25, D.C. IT WILL HELP THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO KEEP OUR WILDLIFE ABUNDANT. INCLUDE THE DATE, TOWN, STATE, AND IF IT WAS SHOT OR FOUND DEAD. THANKS.  
YOURS.  
MARK TRAIL

Send a dollar for six posters to Inland Bird Banding Association, Mrs. Amelia Laskey, Treas. 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 12, Tenn.

THE ANNUAL MEETING  
Washington Crossing Park, April 21-22, 1956

**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS** The chief matters dealt with at the Business Meeting of the Council, 10 members being present and President Frank P. Frazier presiding, were: Approval of the Treasurer's Report (which appears elsewhere in this issue). . . . a report by the Treasurer on the vocations of members -- the results of the questionnaire include with the 1955 dues notice (also printed in this issue). . . . regretful acceptance of Merrill Wood's request that, after 11 years of service as Treasurer, he be relieved of his duties.

Dues of sustaining members were raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00 (but regular membership dues remain at \$2.00). . . . in view of the fact that Ebba News Editor Albert E. Conway had stated he would be obliged to decline re-appointment for another year, the Council directed the Secretary to write Mr. Conway expressing regret and commending him for the valuable service he had rendered during the past four years. . . . the Council then appointed Frank P. Frazier as Editor for the coming year.

As chairman of the historical committee, Eleanor Dater outlined plans for preparing and publishing a history of EBBA. . . . as chairman also of the committee appointed to work out plans for forming a national council of bird banding associations, Mrs. Dater read a report on the committee's progress to date. The Council agreed that this committee should continue its work.

**ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICERS** After reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, and of the Treasurer's Report, President Frank P. Frazier called for the report of the Nominating Committee, composed of William Pepper, Chandler Robbins and Chairman Joseph Cadbury. The report was read and, there being no further nominations from the floor, the Secretary was instructed to cast a ballot electing the officers and new members of the Council. (The list appears on page 30.)

**THE SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS - MORNING** The sessions, presided over by President Frank P. Frazier, opened with a welcome on behalf of the