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EBBA'S PRESIDENT SAYS: News has reached us that Dick Cole, EBBA's popular Vice-President died shortly after his return from Guatemala this fall. Only banders who knew Dick intimately can know the full extent of the loss that this tragic news conveys. Dick was a bander's bander, and a well-informed all-around naturalist and conservationist. With his wife, Dick visited Washington Crossing Park in the late spring of 1956, planning to conduct a public banding program in the Baltimore City Park. This bander recalls it as if it were yesterday how Dick was constantly stopping to look at flowers and ferns as he rounded the trapline on that rainy day. His interest in ferns was so contagious that this bander made haste to the nearest book shop for a copy of the new fern guide of the Peterson Series. All last summer the Fern Guide traveled around the trapline in the banding bucket. Now, thanks to Dick Cole, the trails are fringed with Wood Ferns, Lady Ferns, Beech Ferns, Rattlesnake Ferns, Sensitive Ferns, and in all, exactly 39 species of ferns have been found growing in the 17 acre banding area.

Dick Cole would surely have written this column as EBBA's President had he lived. That he will never write it is a real loss to EBBA members, and to banders everywhere.

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In September many eastern banders met in the pages of the Saturday Evening Post a western bander who is well on his way to become "Bird Bander Number One." Don Eleitz of Los Angeles, whose amazing color photographs of American birds filled 8 pages and the cover of the stupendous Post, has banded and photographed well over 430 species of North American birds including a California Condor. Don travels in an air-conditioned station wagon with a four-wheel drive, with a complete dark-room, and a \$50,000 camera inside. (According to the Post article.) He releases his camera shutter by radio while he is watching his bird subjects through a spotting scope, and in that way obtains completely natural shots. Chances are that most EBBA members have already read Don's biography which accompanied his magnificent bird portfolio in the Post.

And what kind of fellow is Bander Eleitz? Well this bander can tell you for Don trudged the mile-long trap-line at Washington Crossing Park

in nasty weather from morning until dark, often handling as many as 100 White-throats, Fox Sparrows and other birds on a single round of the traps. Don is a cheerful, robust and intelligent ornithologist and naturalist who keeps all of his senses alert, and who knows as much as any human can know what is happening every second in the woods around him. It was a memorable experience to watch Don band his first Tufted Titmouse (he had banded many Bridled and Plain Titmice) and his first Carolina Chickadee with the enthusiasm of a beginner. It was hard to believe that this man who has banded Bohemian Waxwings, Arctic Warblers, Jaegers, Whimbrels, Snowy Owls and Willow Ptarmigan would get any kick at all out of banding a Chickadee. But he did!

This bander sincerely hopes that Don Eleitz will reach the goal he has set for himself which is to band and to photograph in color every available North American bird species. En route to his goal, Bander Eleitz with the help of his wife has set up his own Wildlife Foundation and has developed his own hummingbird bands which the banding office has been glad to accept with its blessing.

As Jeanne and Paul watched Don and Elvirita board a New York bound train, Jeanne summed it up perfectly. "Gosh," she said, "aren't banders grand people?"

This bander extends his best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Banding Year in 1958 to EBBA members everywhere.

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Don Eleitz and PHF and "Fishy" the immature night heron. Fishy gets his name from his aroma -- not his diet, which is mostly sea bass at 55¢ per pound!

Photo by  
Norman Fisher



Come to the EBBA Annual Meeting!

Where? Ramsey, New Jersey  
When? April 12-13, 1958  
Why? To learn - to enjoy - to talk  
with banding friends old and new