

There have been a number of interesting returns recorded as well. Among the most outstanding were 2 Tree Sparrows returning for 8 consecutive winters; 6 returning for 7 winters and 5 for 6 winters. A Crested Flycatcher nested at the banding station for 8 summers, another for 6 summers and 2 for 5 summers. A Slate-colored Junco returned for 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ years and was taken all but two winters. A Catbird returned for 7 summers, another 8 years old was taken all but 2 summers. A Robin, banded as an adult, returned for 8 summers. A Red-eyed Vireo was found dead a mile away 6 years later. An Ovenbird retrapped 5 years after banding. 2 Purple Grackles taken 8 years after banding. A Song Sparrow present for 6 summers. A Tufted Titmouse nesting in area for 7 summers. A House Wren nesting in the area for 4 summers.

It is not difficult to understand that a bander of such experience would play a large part in such an organization as EBBA. This has been true, for Mr. Middleton has held many of the important offices. He was EBBA's president during the years 1952-54 and is at present on the Board of Governors.

Salem, New Jersey.

A LETTER FROM CHARLES H. BLAKE

I was much interested in Chandler Robbins' rejoinder to John Dennis' article. (See Ebba News, 20-53 and 20:86.) I think there is probably a good deal to be said on both sides. There certainly must be some difference in the ability to detect a mist net. Mockingbirds are peculiarly difficult to net under most conditions. On one occasion in Jamaica when it was already dusk, a mockingbird zoomed right over the top of a net set against a high, dark hedge. Did it conclude because the top of the net was visible that the obstruction went all the way to the ground; or had it, as our underworld friends would say, "based the joint" on some previous occasion?

Some swifts must be even more adept at seeing small objects in dim light. On another occasion in Jamaica I tried to net palm swifts that were flying only two or three feet above the ground when it was almost dark, and they still flew either over or around my nets, one of which was set against a sufficiently dark background. On another occasion there in the Port Royal mountains, we had some nets set on the brow of a hill and just at dusk two large swifts -- the black and the collared -- were flying across the yard and diving down the side of the mountain. They uniformly avoided the nets, but some bats of the genus *Tadarida* slammed right into the nets. They apparently did not expect any obstruction and had not turned on their sonar.

Hillsboro, North Carolina.
