

343 Broad-winged	"	Evamarie Townsend, Pompton Plains, N.J.	1
343 Broad-winged	"	Bell	2
352 Bald Eagle		Burt	1
357 Pigeon Hawk		Dickerson	1
360 Sparrow Hawk		Burt	14
		Bell	10
364 Osprey		Miller	5
		Robbins	4

Jamesburg, N.J. -- send in YOUR figures --

WOS SESSION ON BANDING
By Mrs. Frank P. Townsend

The Wilson Ornithological Society's 1958 annual meeting April 24-27 at Wheeling, West Virginia, this year for the first time devoted an organized, full-session program to banding activities. EBBA members attending included Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Dickerson of Spotswood, Mrs. Betty Carnes of Tenafly, and your reporter, all from New Jersey; Ralph K. Bell, of Clarksville, Pa., and Chandler Robbins of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The local Brooks Bird Club, host society, provided a top-notch "party" in lovely 1,000-acre Oglebay Park in the hills near Wheeling, and attendance varied between 250 and 500 for the final banquet.

Non-banders heard a comprehensive if necessarily condensed story of banding's purposes, progress and methods, making it less esoteric and less remote from the ends of the average birder's binoculars.

Allen J. Duvall of the Fish and Wildlife Service provided a broad introductory base for the full afternoon session and spoke on "The Banding Office in Recent Developments in Banding." Mr. Robbins, in a paper prepared jointly with James Baird of Newport, R.I., told of "The Cooperative Atlantic Seaboard Migrant Netting Program", better known to EBBA members as "Operation Recovery". He related the progress made even this early in the projected ten-year program, stressing the productivity of wide-spread cooperative effort.

Members will recall that "Operation Recovery" included weighing as well as measuring birds taken during the program last Fall, and the Wheeling meeting heard Charles H. Blake's paper on the related "Way of Using (Bird) Weights to Determine the End of Fall Migration". Mr Bell gave an interesting slide-illustrated discussion of his work at his Pennsylvania poultry farm on "A Method of Trapping Crows for Banding". Considerable interest also was aroused by Helmut C. Mueller's talk on "The Belachatri: a Small Portable Trap for Hawks" with several of these

traps on hand for inspection. The device can be made in varied sizes, according to the species of hawk to be trapped. It consists of a sturdy wire mesh dome, weighted with lead at the base, and festooned on top with hand-tied nylon slip-nooses. With a live mouse inside as bait, this trap can be dropped from a slowly moving car at a roadside when a hawk is sighted nearby. The hawk, usually not alarmed by the moving vehicle, assails the trap and its claws become snared in the nylon slip-nooses. To reassure those concerned with the fate of Sputnik's dog, Mr. Mueller reported that his mice survived several such drops unharmed.

Other papers included Dr. Oliver Austin's "Some Problems of Sea Bird Banding", and "A Water Fowl Nesting Ground Banding Program in the Canadian Prairies" by Fred A. Glover.

Of interest to all birders was the presentation by Dr. William W.H. Gunn of the University of Toronto of a premiere of a recording he made with Donald J. Ferror entitled "Songs of Warblers of Eastern North America", in the "Sounds of Nature" series. This is sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and may be obtained through the Federation or the National Audubon Society. It is an RCA pressing, 33 rpm, 12-inch two-sided HI-FI. There are 39 warbler species represented, their songs systematically arranged by bands: songs sung slowly; songs trilled; buzzy songs; and songs of varied phrases. This permits easy comparison of disconcertingly similar songs. We obtained a copy, have tried it on our home HI-FI set, and find it excellent. Narration is at a minimum.

Other high spots on the Wheeling program were Ralph W. Dexter's "Longevity, Age of Breeding, and Fluctuation of Abundance of a Colony of Chimney Swifts" based on birds banded between 1944 and 1952; Dr. Ira Gabrielson's "Wildlife and the Menace of Chemical Pesticides", and, outstandingly, Frederick C. Lincoln's report on the wild and captive populations of the Whooping Crane accompanied by a color movie.

The 1959 Wilson meeting is scheduled in Maine in June and, with banding becoming of increasing interest, this gathering should appeal to more EBBA members.

Pompton Plains, N.J.

WHO WOULD LIKE TO
JOIN DICK HOLMES?

EBBA member Richard Holmes, on leave from college to work on an Alaska Fur Seal project for the Fish and Wildlife Service, is stationed on a vessel 10 to 100 miles off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington. Among the pelagic birds he has observed are Black-footed and Laysan Albatrosses; Sooty, Pink-footed and Slender-billed Shearwaters; Fulmars; Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets; Ancient Murrelets; California Murres; Kittiwakes, and others.
