

President

SETH H. LOW, RD 2, Gaithersburg, Md.

Secretary

JOHN R. GIVEN
RFD 1, Croton Ave.
Peekskill, N.Y.

Treasurer

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

Editor - Frank P. Frazier, 424 Highland Ave., Upper Montclair, N.J.

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATIONS

First Meeting of Delegates, Held during the AOU Annual Meeting
at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y.
October 15, 1958

A report by Frank P. Frazier

Delegates present: WBBA: Mrs. Enid K. Austin, Oakland, Calif.; IBBA: Karl E. Bartel, Blue Island, Ill.; NEBBA: E. Alexander Bergstrom, West Hartford, Conn., and L. M. Bartlett, Amherst, Mass.; EBBA: Mrs. Eleanor Dater, Ramsey, N.J., and Oliver L. Austin, Jr., Gainesville, Florida.

Alternates present: WBBA: Miss Emily D. Smith, Saratoga, California; NEBBA: Mrs. James R. Downs, South Londonderry, Vermont; EBBA: Merrill Wood, University Park, Pa., and Frank P. Frazier, Upper Montclair, N.J.

Observer present: Dr. William Gunn, Toronto, Canada, as an observer for the Ontario Bird Banders' Association.

Mrs. Eleanor Dater, acting as temporary chairman, opened the meeting by reviewing the preliminary exchanges of ideas and correspondence between committees, officers and members of the various bird banding associations, particularly during the past six months, which resulted in the selection of this time and place for a meeting and the naming of delegates.

After some discussion, it was moved that the North American Council of Bird Banding Associations be formed along the lines suggested. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Dater was unanimously elected chairman for the first year, the term to expire at the time of the next AOU annual meeting. Mrs. Austin was nominated for vice-chairman, but declined, pleading the press of other duties. It was decided to leave the post open to the selection by WBBA of one of their members.

Dr. Gunn stated that the Ontario Bird Banders' Association wished the new organization well but felt that their problems differed so greatly from those of the U.S. groups that they did not feel they could join now.

Suggestions for activities of the newly formed NACBBA were discussed and it was the sense of the meeting that the gathering of the material for a bird banding manual, to be issued by the Bird Banding Office, was the first and most important project.

Mr. Bergstrom then reviewed the history of the old Bird Banding Manual (now not only out of date but out of print) and described the activity to date (which included his suggested outline) on a new manual. Mr. Bergstrom was appointed chairman of the Council's Committee on the Preparation of a New Bird Banding Manual. Mr. Bergstrom's Committee is to include one person from each of the four U.S. bird banding groups.

Mr. Bergstrom stated that he would update his outline for the proposed new manual and send a copy to each of the bird banding associations for the purpose of getting their suggestions on changes and additions and on who might be the best persons for preparing the material for the several subjects. The aim of the committee will be to get at least some material ready by January 1, 1959, to submit to the Banding Office for approval.

It was further decided that each bird banding association would pay dues of \$5.00 to defray the cost of correspondence, mimeographing, etc. ★★

THE FRONT COVER

Mary Schmid, of Greenwich, Connecticut, is the lady holding the Black-billed Cuckoo for photographers. The picture was made at Island Beach during Operation Recovery by Mary's husband John. Both Mary and John Schmid spent three weekends at Island Beach helping everyone at the nets, in the weighing and measuring activities and in a hundred other ways. Both took pictures -- Mary in black and white (see some of them in the center spread) and John in color (we hope to see his slides at the next EBBA annual meeting).

Mary Schmid is the person who is giving most generously of her time and energy to the preparation of an Index of EBBA NEWS for the past ten years. We hope to be able to publish the Index early in 1959.

★★

BANDING NESTLINGS When banding a nest full of young birds and the birds refuse to be returned to the nest, don't keep climbing up and down the tree in the hope that they will stay put. Take a carrot basket for birds such as robins, a smaller basket for smaller birds and place the nest and the birds in the basket and tie the whole thing in place up the tree as near the original nest site as possible. The parent birds will continue to feed the young in the basket after the fuss subsides. By the time the young can clamber out of the basket they will be larger and in better shape to avoid ever present danger from cats and dogs. ★★