

BEECHER S. BOWDISH
 "Turns over a New Leaf"

In a letter to the Editor, Beecher S. Bowdish, who has been banding birds actively longer than anyone else in the U.S. if not in the world, (some of his records appear elsewhere in this issue), writes that he has turned in his resignation as a bander:

"To me, one of the most appealing articles that I've ever seen is William Pepper's 'It's Later Than You Think', in the September-October 1958 EBBA NEWS. So accurately did it reflect my thoughts during the past several years that it has fairly haunted me since I read it. So definite has been my own conviction, reinforced by Pepper's excellently expressed statement, that along with the resolutions of New Year's Eve, I 'turned over a new leaf' (finding a blank page) sent in my resignation as a bird banding cooperater, thereby terminating a period of activity which covered the whole history of organized bird banding in the United States.

"Giving up bird banding comes as tough as addicts report on giving up drinking and smoking. This banding station has been run during its last days under 'former management' with just as much faithfulness as in its brightest times, but it has almost seemed that the birds (such limited numbers as still hang around here) had an instinctive foreboding that I was preparing to 'run out' on them. The occasional one or two of a day which wandered into a trap and got caught seemed to regard it as an accident, and I came to agree with them.

"Probably as long as I continue to 'stick around', I'll read of the doings and remember that I did, too, once on a time!"

-- Beech

16 Van Horn St., Demarest, N.J. -January 1, 1959 -

HYBRID SPARROW-JUNCO
 By Mabel Warburton

On November 8, 1958, Bander Louis Reichel, who bands at his home, 8140 Burholme Ave., Phila., Pa., trapped a hybrid sparrow-junco. Mr. Reichel showed the bird at his lecture on Sunday in Pennypack Park. Since I was on my way up to Trenton, I brought the bird up, showed it to Dr. Fluck, then turned it over to Mr. Charles Rogers of the Princeton University Museum. (I believe Mr. Rogers made a skin of the bird.) The hybrid had the flesh-colored bill and white outer tail feathers of the Junco. There was much grey about the head, no yellow between bill and eye, but the white throat was present. Head markings seemed to be more Swamp Sparrow than White-throated Sparrow.

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