

THE ANNUAL MEETING  
State College, Pa., April 11-12, 1959  
By Frank P. Frazier, Jr.

Once again EBBA held a most successful annual meeting, bringing together one of the largest gatherings of bird banders ever held in this country. The program, arranged under the direction of Eleanor Dater, was one of the best we have ever had (brief notes on the program follow and some of the papers are being prepared for this and succeeding issues.) The arrangements committee, under the leadership of Merrill Wood, functioned perfectly and earned everyone's unstinted thanks.

MORNING PAPERS SESSION

Mr. Lyman E. Jackson, Dean of the Penn State College of Agriculture, welcomed the Association, noting that this was the first time EBBA has met at State College. He mentioned that State College is in the geographic center of Pennsylvania, and "equally inaccessible from all points".

Albert Schnitzer opened the morning papers session, speaking on plans for Operation Recovery at Island Beach in 1959. Volunteers were requested to contact Mr. Schnitzer in order that arrangements may be made well in advance, and efforts will be made to secure more organized field observations to supplement the actual banding.

John Schmid showed a remarkable collection of color slides portaying people and birds at Island Beach during Operation Recovery in 1958, and Mrs. Schmid narrated for the showing. Many of those present saw themselves as others saw them - in a healthy but often haggard outdoor life. Needless to say, the bird photographs were excellent.

Gilbert Raynor wound up this series on Island Beach with a discussion of his studies of the migration experience there during September, 1958, as compared with weather conditions over the regions from which the birds presumably came.

Dan Campbell of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service spoke on age and sex determination of the Common Grackle. The relative amount of brownish coloration of the under wing coverts was given as a way to gauge the relative age of grackles.

John Webb read a paper by himself and David Wetherbee, both of the Fish and Wildlife Service, on the extension of the breeding range of the Cowbird into the southeastern part of the country.

Stephen Liscinski of the Penna. Game Commission showed slides demonstrating methods used to trap woodcock for banding.

Mrs. Mabel Gillespie gave an account of her banding experiences in California, including an amusing story of the harrassment and red tape connected with getting a state permit to use a single mist net.

Bennett Matlack spoke on banding of Laughing Gulls at Cape May, giving an impressive list of totals and recoveries. His birds have been recovered in several South and Central American countries, as well as in the United States and the Caribbean.

#### AFTERNOON PAPERS SESSION

Dr. Charles Blake spoke on moults, giving several useful pointers on how banders can gauge the progress of moult in birds in the hand, and identify the type of moult; he also explained the terminology in use to describe them.

Raymond Middleton discussed his banding of robins at his home for over thirty years - another of his fine series of talks taking one species and analyzing his banding data on it.

Dr. John F. Mehner read a paper, illustrated with graphs, demonstrating the effect of massive use of insecticides on robin populations.

Dr. Hubert Frings of Penn State spoke on the meanings attached to bird calls, and played recordings of the "vocabulary" of several species, such as the herring gull and crow, which have a variety of calls, each used for a specific purpose.

Frank P. Frazier demonstrated, with slides, the techniques currently in use for weighing and measuring live birds in the hand.

Dr. Paul Fluck spoke on various time-saving banding techniques, and also added some remarks on his professional observation of eye diseases in birds.

Ralph Bell described a nest-box trap which he invented for purple martins, with advice on its use and protection from sparrows and starlings.

Eva Townsend gave a talk entitled "A Bander Dons Her Second Winter Plumage", a sequel to her talk of two years ago, "A Fledgling Bander". A very interesting discussion of the problems and development of a new bander.