May-June 1959

EBBA NEWS

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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 attatched 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.