

LEGISLATION TO REMOVE IMPORT DUTIES FROM FOWLING NETS

(The following is copied from a circular letter of the Western Bird Banding Association. EBBA members are urged to write to their Representatives in Congress; the name of your congressman can be obtained by calling your library or local newspaper. -Ed.)

On February 15, 1960, Representative William Widnall of Massachusetts introduced H.R. 10426 in the U. S. House of Representatives. It was immediately referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. This bill provides that the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, be further amended to exempt "Nets or sections or parts of nets, finished or unfinished, of whatever material or materials composed, for use in taking wild birds" from import duties.

The 30% duty on mist nets we now use for bird banding and for other scientific studies, would be removed by this bill. This would of course result in savings to the many scientific, educational, and governmental agencies, and the many citizen cooperators of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service who use such bird nets.

We urge you to write your Representative in Washington, D.C., as soon as possible to indicate your personal interest in having favorable action taken on H.R. 10426. Letters to your Senators are also very important so that they will be alert to this same bill when it reaches the floor of the Senate.

It is significant to note that Eleanor E. Dater, Council Chairman of the North American Council of Bird Banding Associations has represented us well in this regard. She has had the able assistance of Dr. William Drury of South Lincoln, Mass., who is chairman of the committee on "Nets Duty Free" in the drafting and introduction of this bill. It now needs active support so that it will not die in committee for lack of interest.

EXCHANGE OF ORNITHOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

The Eastern Bird Banding Association has started an exchange of ornithological publications to be housed and catalogued in the Agricultural Library, 101 Patterson Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania. In this exchange are (1) THE FLORIDA NATURALIST of the Florida Audubon Society, (2) THE MIGRANT of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, (3) THE RAVEN of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, (4) THE SOUTH DAKOTA BIRD NOTES of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, and (5) DER VOGELRING from Cologne, Germany.

The Pennsylvania State University has about 14,000 students on campus with 92 (graduate and undergraduate) students majoring in zoology. It is hoped this collection will grow and benefit many people. (By Merrill Wood, who is responsible for the initiation of this exchange.)

University Park, Pennsylvania
