



THE 1961 ANNUAL MEETING AT EAST STROUDSBERG, PA.

By Frank P. Frazier, Jr.

While the meeting of the Council was being held, a reception was given at the Brookview Manor Hotel in Canadensis, Pa., the headquarters for the meeting. It would be appropriate to re-

FRIDAY RECEPTION

cord here that this location, everyone agreed, was wonderful - the hotel is located a mile south of Canadensis and fifteen miles north of Stroudsberg, in the Poconos. It is surrounded by woods, and across the road a stream rushes past a field, beyond which is a forested hillside.

COUNCIL MEETING

The EBBA Council met at 8:00 pm. in the Annex of the Brookview Manor and, perhaps as evidence that EBBA is a rising organization, did not adjourn until nearly midnight. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted. Mr. Ralph K. Bell was appointed to fill the unexpired term on the Council of Bennett Matlack. Changes in the By-Laws were discussed and approved for submission to the vote of the Association: these defined more clearly the duties of the three Vice-Presidents, and provided that the Editor should be a voting member of the Council. A contribution of \$25 was granted to Dr. Paul Fluck's Washington Crossing Bird Banding Station, in recognition of its work in educating the public about bird banding. The Editor and Co-editor were reappointed for another year. It was decided that dues would continue to be payable on the first of October of each year, and that new members joining on or after the first of August would be credited with payment up to October 1 of the following year. A vote of confidence was given Mrs. Dater in her work of selling nets for EBBA, and it was the sense of the meeting that an annual accounting be submitted for these transactions.



MORNING At 9:00 am. on Saturday morning the meeting opened in the auditorium of the East Stroudsburg State College, with a welcome by Dr. LeRoy J. Koehler, President of the college, to which President Eleanor Dater responded.

Dr. Maurice Broun gave the first paper, on ten years of banding at Hawk Mountain. In this period, he has banded 4,301 Juncos, followed by 2,920 Evening Grosbeaks. The grosbeaks have eaten as much as a ton of seed in a winter! While the principal operation of Hawk Mountain is not banding, Dr. Broun stressed the use of banding at such a place as a means of educating the public.

Dr. Carlton M. Herman gave a paper on the part birds play in the spread of eastern equine encephalitis, which made the headlines two summers ago. Most native birds can be infected, but do not sicken; it appears that the virus can be "maintained" during the winter by birds, and it is possible that hibernating animals, especially reptiles, may also serve as winter hosts for the virus. Conclusive data does not exist, however, to prove that birds are a reservoir or transmitter (through mosquitoes) for the virus.



The Brookview Manor's signpost.
Photo by FPF Jr.

Chandler S. Robbins of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service spoke on the aging and sexing of birds during banding, and stressed the great importance of accuracy: if a bander is unsure of age and/or sex, he ought to report it as unknown, rather than risk giving incorrect data. Mr. Robbins showed graphs and slides demonstrating that while many ways exist to determine the age and sex of many species and that more are being discovered, many of the old ideas are unreliable - the most striking example of this was a slide of a Whitethroat, a very dingy bird which most of us would call immature: but banding showed this bird to be six years old!

Franklin McCamey discussed the development and age determination of Chickadees, and showed an excellent series of slides showing the progression of nestlings from hatching to the time they are ready to leave the nest. Birds he studies took 19 days to leave the nest, and he feels that shorter times, which are given in the literature, may be due to disturbance of the birds by ornithologists. The nestlings whose picture he took daily, did leave the nest slightly sooner than those of other nests which he seldom disturbed.

Stanley Quickmire spoke on the late Bennett K. Matlack (see Jan-Feb 1961 EBBA NEWS) and gave a fine biographical sketch of Mr. Matlack who, until his death last December (while in the process of banding some birds) had been a member of EBBA for many years and regularly banded in one year a number of birds which most of us can't aspire to band in five or ten.

Albert Schnitzer showed photographs and spoke on his successful Operation Recovery banding at Monhegan Island, Maine, a full account of which appeared in the last issue of EBBA NEWS.

Mrs. Mabel Warburton spoke on Operation Recovery at Island Beach last fall, and showed pictures of the operation there.

A sumptuous lunch was served in the college Dining Hall.

AFTERNOON The afternoon session opened with the business meeting. President Dater presided. The proceedings of the Council meeting were reported (and are summarized above), and the Treasurer's report was given, and appears elsewhere in this issue. The changes to the by-laws were approved by the membership of the Association. The officers were re-elected for a second term, as authorized by the Constitution, and the three Council members whose terms expire this year, Mr. Arthur Fast, Mrs. Elinor McEntee, and Dr. Charles H. Blake, were also re-elected for another term. A greeting from Beecher S. Bowdish, a founding member of EBBA who was unable to come, was read, and it was resolved that the Association should answer his greeting with a telegram.

Your Editor, Frank P. Frazier, spoke briefly on the progress of EBBA NEWS. He mentioned the large number of letters received expressing the



Allen J. Duvall and John Given



Lewis Dumont, Allen Duvall, Dr. G. Leubner (and Mrs. Marie Dumont with back turned)



Mr. & Mrs. H.M. Church, and Seth Low



Albert Schnitzer, Ralph Bell, Lewis Dumont, and John Webb

Below: Field Trip at Pocono Lake
Photos by F.P. Frazier Sr. & Jr.



desire of members that the "Who Banded Most of What" column be kept; he said that it will be kept, but that its value depends on participation by banders, and that an effort will be made to improve it, giving more useful information and using "significant" total banders rather than all figures given, since many show small numbers of common species, a result of participation by only a small proportion of EBBA members. He also asked that members keep in mind the need EBBA NEWS has for pictures - photographs or drawings - which can be used to good advantage in connection with articles and papers in EBBA NEWS.

Mr. Allen J. Duvall, chief of the Bird Banding Office, spoke on several subjects relating to the Office: the new Manual is well on its way, the first part has been edited and needs only final typing and printing. The restoration program after the fire should be substantially completed by August of this year, and new machine data-processing systems should be ready by then, to give much more efficient use of banding information. A new schedule form is to be used for reporting bandings, and Mr. Duvall discussed this: bandings will be reported by band number rather than by species; one schedule sheet will be used for each string of 100 bands. This change is necessitated by the use of machine processing, but will also serve to eliminate many common types of errors made while completing schedules.

Another innovation will be a new form which the Banding Office will use to report recoveries to banders and the finders of bands. This form will be IBM-card size, produced by machine, and the information it contains will be coded - people who find banded birds will receive a card showing, intelligibly, banding data of the bird, but the cards which the banders will receive will show, by number code, the general location and coordinates where the bird was recovered, but will no longer show the name or address of the finder. We understand that this form is not yet final, and hope that some means will be found to provide this information for banders.

Mr. Roland C. Clement of the National Audubon Society spoke on "Birds, Viruses and Islands", illustrated with slides.

Mr. Leroy Wilcox of Long Island discussed his 33 years of banding, including details of his Operation Recovery station at Tiana Beach on Long Island, and of his extensive banding and studies of Ospreys and Piping Plovers.

Mr. Gilbert Cant and Mrs. Hope Putnam Geis discussed the distribution of the House Finch in the East, particularly in New York and New Jersey. It appears that a short migration route is developing, from New York to central New Jersey and the Philadelphia area.

Mrs. John A. Gillespie spoke on "Travels of Herring Gulls", illustrated with slides and charts showing recoveries of Gulls banded in New

England. She also discussed efforts to control the numbers of Herring Gulls, which is discussed at length in her paper in the Jan-Feb 1961 issue of EBBA NEWS.

Stanley Quickmire spoke on "Birds in the Hand", illustrated with many excellent slides of what banders are most interested in - birds.

BANQUET The annual banquet was held in the college dining hall and was a resounding success. After the meal the "roll call" was held, in which the 144 members and guests present gave their names and such remarks as they wished about their banding. After this, John and Mary Schmidt showed their remarkable film, "A Screen Detour", movies of Florida birds. It takes a very good film to exceed in entertainment value John Schmidt's introduction, but this one succeeded and very well.

A rising vote of thanks was given at the banquet to Dr. William N. Martin of the college, for his fine work before and during the meeting as chairman of the arrangements committee.

FIELD TRIP ON SUNDAY The field trip began officially at 9:00 am. but really started much earlier when Chandler Robbins and a few others who know no better than to rise at dawn put up about a dozen nets around the Brookview Manor grounds for demonstration purposes. So until 9, the yard of the Brookview was filled with banders watching the netting or conversing - one of the best parts of these meetings. At 9 o'clock a formidable caravan of cars followed Dr. Martin out to Pocono Lake, and stopped at several spots around the lake. Among the birds seen were several Common Loons, five Bonaparte's Gulls, and several Red-breasted Mergansers and Red-fleheads. No warblers had arrived yet, but Ruby-crowned Kinglets were singing in the woods surrounding the lake. After this, some of the members stayed to go and see Buck Hill Falls and other scenic spots in the Pocono.

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B A N D I N G P L I E R S

A KENNARD type plier with certain changes is now available commercially. Holes bored in flat-nosed pliers fit standard band sizes to avoid lapped bands and make it quite easy to get a perfect fit. A band opener on the plier enables the user to open the band evenly with one operation. A spring provides tension to keep the opened band in the plier while handling the bird. One plier will handle band sizes 0, 1, 1B and 1A (price \$6.00) and the other will handle sizes 2 and 3 (price \$5.00); these prices include postage within the U.S. Orders should be sent to Mr. Roger N. MacDonald, 850 Main Street, Lynnfield Center, Mass. Mr. MacDonald is the originator and manufacturer of these pliers.



Top left: Chandler Robbins and friend (Red Crossbill) - Photo by J. Douglas Whitman. Top right: Banding and talk at the Brookview, Sunday morning - Photo by FPF Jr. Center right: At the banquet - Arthur Fast, John Dorman, Mr. & Mrs. Warburton - Photo by FPF Sr. Lower left: Buck Hill Falls - Photo by FPF Sr. Lower right: EBBA Luncheon at East Stroudsburg State College - Photo by J. Douglas Whitman.