



EBBA NUS



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A Friendly Report to Members of the Eastern Bird Banding Ass'n.

April, 1940

Let Us Band Together

Vo. 3 - No. 1

NEW YORK PROVIDES A WARM WELCOME

An exceptionally interesting annual meeting was held in the American Museum of Natural History, in New York, on Saturday, February 24th. While the attendance was slightly smaller than the previous meeting held in Philadelphia, the speakers were very competent and offered papers that were interesting and helpful to all.

SOCIAL RECEPTION

On Friday evening a social reception and a meeting of the Executive Council was held at the Museum, beginning at 7:30 p.m. During this session, everyone became acquainted with each other and had an opportunity to inspect the many traps and other displays.

NEW OFFICERS

At 10 a.m. the following day the election of the 1940 officers was held, followed by a business meeting for all members. Officers were elected as follows:

President: Dr. C. B. Worth, Rockefeller Inst. of Medical Research, Princeton, N.J.

Vice-President: R. E. Ware, Clemson College, Clemson, S.C.

Secretary: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Dr., Huntington, L.I., N.Y.

Treasurer: George Dock, Jr., 119 Brite Avenue, Scarsdale, N.Y.

Councillors: Horace Groskin, Ardmore, Pa.; Miss Lisa von Borowsky Brooksville, Fla.; Mrs. Marie V. Beals, Elmhurst, N.Y.; Howard Krug, Chesley, Ontario, Canada; J. T. Nichols, New York City; Dr. H. B. Wood, Harrisburg, Pa. and others to be appointed at the discretion of the new officers.

AFTERNOON SESSION

On Saturday afternoon the program was opened to the general public, with an Address of Welcome by John T. Nichols, in a lively manner, typical of this well known and popular ornithologist. Setting the tempo of the meeting, Mr. Nichols was followed by a number of splendid papers listed elsewhere in this issue.

BANQUET

At 6:30 that evening the Annual Banquet was held at The

Chalfonte near the Museum and was well attended. Among the many speakers at this gala occasion, the talks by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy and Roger T. Peterson were particularly outstanding.

PAPERS OFFERED AT ANNUAL MEETING

Address of Welcome	John T. Nichols
Progress Report of the Cooperative Herring Gull Survey	J. J. Hickey and S. C. Harriot
Progress Report of Bird Disease Survey	C. M. Herman
Purple Finch Invasion in Eastern Pennsylvania in the Spring of 1939	Horace Groskin
Some Records of Birds Banded on Long Island	LeRoy Wilcox
Construction and Use of the Sokri Automatic Hawk Trap	George Dock, Jr.
Our Present Knowledge of Hawk Migration	Richard Pough
Bird Banding in Holland	J. J. terPelkwijk of the Netherlands

General Discussion led by President Herman on such topics as Bringing Birds to the Traps, Trap Behavior and types of Bait.

THE LOST IS FOUND

It has been remarked that looking at dead birds on the highways and strolls along the beaches and shores will sometimes reward the bander with a recovery. Here is proof. After looking at the feet of hundreds of dead gulls on the shore and islands of Jamaica Bay, L.I., N.Y., Thomas Imhoff, a recent member, reports the following two discoveries. At Old Mill, Ozone Park, N.Y., found dead, Oct. 1, 1939, Herring Gull, No. 39-657879, in first post-juvinal plumage. This bird was banded as a nestling, July 4, 1939 on Penikese Island, Mass., by Laurence Fletcher. Also found the same day, Herring Gull, No. 37-662978, on Jamaica Bay. This bird was banded July 2, 1937, at Cape Small, Maine, by S. W. Hyde. Fellow adventurers on this particular expedition with Mr. Imhof were Thure Tengwall and Raymond Gelotte.

Here is another case, very unusual, but still proof that recoveries can be occasionally found. Richard B. Fischer reports that Roy Bernhardt, a bird student, while making a field trip on January 30, 1940, in Kissena Park, Flushing, N.Y., inspected a box believed to be occupied by a Screech Owl. At the time of the visit, the owl was not at home. A dozen pellets and the wings and tail feathers of some sparrow were in the box. On closer inspection of the pellets, Mr. Bernhardt was surprised to see a Survey band drop out of one. The number was 40-120204. A check-up proved that this band was placed on a Fox Sparrow by William Astle at Kissena Park on December 28, 1939

When next you see a bird that "has come to the end of the road," won't you stop, look and check?

NEW WRINKLES ON THE OLD PROBLEM OF BAITS
(Send in Your Experiences)

FLICKERS: The newest tip in this department comes from George Dock, Jr. A thought on the trapping of Flickers. It has not had fair test, but has possibilities. Flickers eat ants. Ants are attracted by sugar. Spill a little sugar on the ground beneath your trap and in a short time you will have ants...and hopes of getting Flickers. Mr. Dock says it doesn't work with an ordinary pull string drop-trap as the Flickers won't go under the trap, but with an automatic trap with a side entrance or a top opening trap, the chances should be fairly good. Flickers are a large bird, as garden birds go, therefore they should offer worth while recoveries. Dead birds of a large size are more often reported than the smaller ones. Another point in trying this stunt, is the fact that there has not been much work done with this species. If any bander tries this, EBBA would like to know the results. Also from using ant-eggs as bait.

SUNFLOWERS: As thoughts turn to the garden at this season, don't forget to plant a good supply of sunflowers along the back fence or in some spot where they won't upset the entire garden plan. Sunflower seeds still rate as the A No. 1 bait for many birds. Mr. Groskin of Ardmore, Pa. used 75 lbs. when he had his invasion of Purple Finches.

DECOYS AND MIRRORS: Dr. Harold B. Wood tried wooden decoys in his traps Made three which he claimed had a faint resemblance to a cardinal, a junco and a robin. His last report said, "...so far, nothing has even taken a look." However, knowing that some birds make a great fuss over their own reflection, especially around mating season Dr. Wood is going to try the use of a mirror in one or two of his traps

GOLDFINCHES: William Davidson of Tacoma Park, Md., writes, "The only way I have been able to trap Goldfinches is to secure a sunflower head already fed upon by these birds and place the whole head in a Chardoneret trap set up close to the sunflower stalks."

GRACKLES: White bread, (the whiter the better) is the best bait for these birds when used in a top opening trap, either on the ground or mounted on a 3 ft. high platform. When one Grackle is caught, don't rush out to the trap, if you have other such traps. Control yourself; wait fifteen minutes. The first captive will attract others and, depending on the number of traps, you will take several. Be sure the top door locks fairly snug as they may push it up and escape otherwise. It has been found good practice to have a fair-sized stone handy to each trap door. Then, when going out to band the Grackles, swiftly go to each trap and place the rock on top, as your appearance near the traps will start a great commotion.

In trapping adult and immature Grackles, a modified Chardoneret has given excellent results when worked in a fleet of a dozen. Instead of following the size instructions in the Manual, these should be made 3 inches high, 9 inches wide and 24 inches long, and contain

2 apartments. Doors should be made 9 by 7 inches. No gathering cage door is necessary. With the use of a cloth, take the bird out of the door by which it entered. Use the spring of an ordinary mouse trap, (2 for 5; at any 5 & 10). Thread spring through a stiff piece of wire which is also the axle on which the door swings from two small eyelets on the wooden frame of the trap. A forked twig from your privet hedge or similar shrub has been found to work better than the perch described in the manual and when broken can be more easily replaced.

"A juvenal Grackle with the lower mandible protruding 1/4 inch beyond the upper mandible was trapped and banded on Aug. 13, 1939 at Scarsdale, N.Y. The mutation was thought likely to cause the bird's early death by starvation. The same Grackle in excellent health was re-trapped and released by the same operator on April 5, 1940, its beak still undershot." G. Dock, Jr.

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Dr. C. Brooke Worth, our newly elected president is pleased to announce a Return-2 of Sir Stork on March 14th. Yes, it is a boy! Even at this early date, it is noticeable that the baby has his mother's grace and the doctor's ready smile. What with being elected President of EBBA and the arrival of the heir, almost one after the other, Dr. Worth writes that he is completely disorganized...."but happy about the whole thing."

Miss Dorothy M. Caldwell of Mount McGregor, N.Y., spent two afternoons of her October vacation at the Austin Ornithological Laboratory on Cape Cod, Mass. She accompanied Dr. Austin as he made the rounds of a dozen house traps and many net traps. Needless to say, she saw dozens of birds banded at this station, one of the largest on the Atlantic Coast.

Mrs. Marie V. Beals of Elmhurst, N.Y. spent several weeks during March, visiting in Florida and looking over the banding stations in that area.

Dr. Carlton M. Herman, former President of EBBA, is now Research Associate in Parasitology at the Hospital and Biological Research Institute of the Zoological Society of San Diego, Cal. Dr. Herman is working primarily on the parasites of birds.

Fred M. Packard is now Senior Wildlife Foreman at the Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado and plans to start banding operations in the wild and woolly west as soon as conditions will permit.

Thomas F. Davis of Orlando, Fla. has been elected head of the Florida Audubon Society. While on the subject, Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. has been Secretary and Treasurer of the New Jersey Audubon Society for almost 20 years.

FOUND IN THE ASSOCIATION'S FILES

April 13, 1923.

"Bird banding work sounds most interesting. I shall get up to Hyde Park in June and will be delighted to cooperate. My second boy, Elliott, aged 12, is quite keen about Natural History and possibly will help us start the trapping."

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt.

FUTURE PLANS

EBBA officials hope to have the necessary equipment in time for the next issue to enable them to include at least one or more sets of drawings and specifications on how to build better traps. Awaiting publication at present is a House Trap, 6 ft. square, built for 50¢, (a minor miracle of our times), designed by Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa.; A Hawk Trap, designed by George Dock, Jr., of Scarsdale, N.Y. A Thread Trap for flickers down to warblers, designed by Daniel Smiley, Jr., of Mohonk Lake, N.Y. Which would you like first? We'll try to give you that data as fast as we can.

WRITE the Secretary of any interesting returns, bait or trap improvements or other observations to cite in our early issues.