

MAY 17 1940

EBBA NUS



A Friendly Report to Members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association

May, 1940

Let Us Band Together

Vol. 3 No. 2

"NEWS AS IS NEWS"

This issue should be read thoroughly by every member. It contains much of interest and importance to all. Of greatest importance is a message from our President, Dr. C. B. Worth, which outlines a new membership classification and also inaugurates a new councillor plan whereby every member and every state is offered an equal share of the management of the organization. This issue also contains a ballot which we hope you will fill out and return as quickly as possible. Finally this is the first issue of EBBA NUS to contain specifications and a plan of a bird trap. Henceforth, each issue will endeavor to offer a plan of a worthwhile trap or other piece of banding equipment.

LET'S LEAD NEXT TIME

The Inland Bird Banding Association, according to their calculations, announces the totals of birds banded by the different regional associations last year, as follows:

Western	50,264	Eastern	83,563
Northeastern	62,329	Inland	230,179

This tabulation and the fact that there appears to be a greater demand for a house-trap than for any of the other plans now awaiting publication, are the reasons Dr. Wood's trap comes first. Place a dozen or so of these traps in operation and our totals will shoot skyward.

PRE-VIEWS OF TRAPS

Several banders have written since the last issue and requested that this or that trap be published in the next issue. Splendid! We want to give you what you want, but, we are limited to one set of plans to the issue. Anyone wishing a copy of the plans and specifications in advance may have them by writing the secretary and enclosing ten cents in stamps. Postage is the association's big expense and such a donation will help.

Besides the traps listed in the previous issue of EBBA NUS we now have awaiting publication, A Clap-net Decoy Trap for small birds; A special Chardonerret Trap for Grackles, etc.; A bird-banding Display built to fit on a folding bridge-table for hobby shows, schools, clubs, etc.; A list of shrubs to attract birds to your garden and a letter to the editor of any local paper, suitable to be written by any bander. Such a letter will help a bander to have recoveries reported and promotes worthwhile interest. George Dock, Jr. has designed the letter and tried it himself with amazing results. One man in his town, according to the latest reports, is attempting to disinter a flicker wearing a band, that he buried last summer.

NEWS ABOUT BANDERS

To prove that it is a small world after all... the son of Thomas F. Davis, our councillor in Orlando, Fla., will graduate this May from Clemson College, S.C. and he is a member of Prof. R. E. Ware's class in zoology. Prof. Ware, of course, is our Vice-President. Davis and Ware will meet for the first time at graduation exercises.

Congratulations are in order! Wedding announcements have been received from Dr. Carlton Herman, former president of Eastern and now in California.

More congratulations! Miss Lisa von Borowsky, of Brooksville, Florida, one of our councillors for that State, has recently been appointed Supervisor of the Chinsegut Migratory Bird Refuge by the Washington authorities.

E. A. Bergstrom and Chandler Robbins of Worcester Lane, Mass. are placing a red celluloid band besides the survey band, on night herons. Henry Day, of Perugue, Missouri has banded some of this species with black bands. Any member contemplating colored banding with this species might contact these banders.

Rev. Edward Stoehr of Brookland, Washington, D. C. will be ordained this June. Rev. Stoehr bands most of his birds in southwest Pennsylvania during the summer.

Robert K. Ungemah of White Plains, N. Y. caught a male cardinal in his sparrow trap during April. This species occurs only sparingly in his State.

Charles C. Vandervort of Laceyville, Pa. banded a chimney swift that was caught 22 days later in Nashville, Tenn. Just to prove that the banding of starlings isn't useless, Mr. Vandervort banded one in January, 1939 that was found dead in Montreal four months later.

A report on the purple finch invasion, outstanding bird event of the spring of 1939 is scheduled for publication in July issue of Bird-Banding. The article has been prepared by Dr. Richard Weaver.

After stopping and inspecting a dead bird on the highway for the 999th time, your humble secretary finally found one wearing a band. A chickadee banded five months previously, by himself.

William Pepper, Jr. of Wyncote, Pa. is still bothered by a "blitzkreig" of grey squirrels.----Has any one any suggestions? Please write him.

Mrs. Thomas C. Luellan of Washington, Pa. purchased a number of bluebird houses this spring and hopes to band a number of this species with the use of this equipment.

W. Ray Salt, 10936 88th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, is preparing a paper for Bird-Banding on returns and recoveries of sparrow hawks. He would like to secure as complete data as possible on this species. If you have such information, write him.

REMEMBER

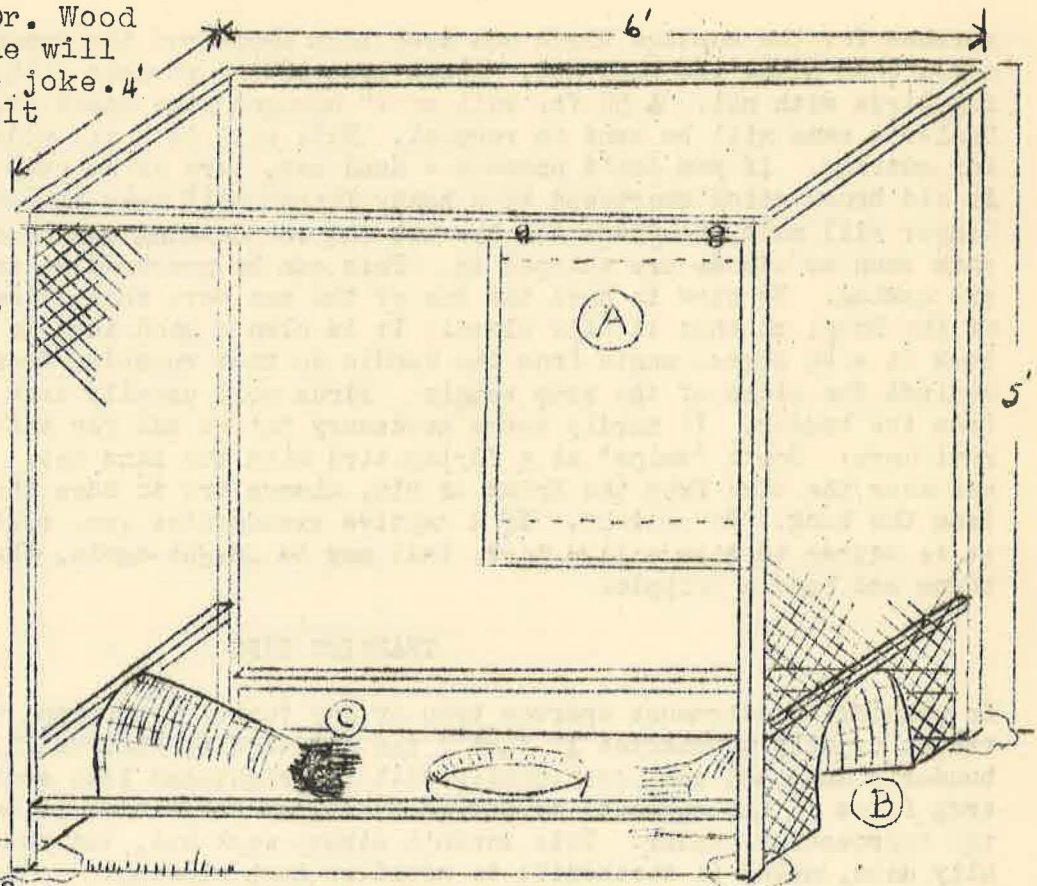
Assist with the Disease Study Project by sending any dead bird which comes into your possession to the nearest pathologist. These are listed in a previous issue of EBBA NUS. Dr. Worth will send you a list on request.

DR. HAROLD B. WOOD'S HOUSE TRAP

If you know Dr. Wood you know that he will have his little joke. He actually built this trap for 50¢ and here are his own words.

"The house trap I made is pictured here. I figured a trap 6x6x6 of half inch mesh costs about ten shiners - \$9.50 beyond me.

"A builder was using some wire in construction and after he was done, I got a roll 35 by 4 ft. wide for a semi-buck. The strips of wood came from a dump. The frame was made after I figured how big it could be. The door through which I use a hand net, is an old window screen. Everything is painted black for protection and obscurity. The lower wooden strips used for strength do not touch the ground, but the wire does. The wire is 1 inch hexagon mesh. Song Sparrows can push through but only do this when I approach."



EBBA offers the following suggestions

- "A" - the door made from an adjustable window screen. If you haven't an old one, they're purchased at any 5¢ & 10¢ store. Hinge it from the top with a double pair of screw-eyes. We suggest that an old piece of canvas or a window shade on a roller be fitted inside this door. When the door is open this canvas or shade will drape around the bander's shoulders and prevent some leaks.
- "B" - the funnel of hardware cloth is 1 ft. high, 2 ft. long and 3 ft. wide at the widest part. Weave it to the hexagon wire where possible and make it from an oblong piece of wire to give added strength.
- "C" - funnel "whiskers" made by fraying hardware cloth.

IN GENERAL, An old garbage-can cover sunk level with the ground will make a satisfactory bird bath. If the needed lumber is not handy, buy 2 by 2's. Poles from nearby woods, such as those used for bean-poles could be used and give a rustic effect. The posts were set on flat rocks set in the ground by Dr. Wood. We suggest that nails be partly driven into the base of the posts and the posts be set in concrete as the trap must withstand the weight of the bander in emergencies with the hand net. It is also suggested that some 5 ft. sticks or rods be run through the wire at different levels to provide

perches for the captive birds and keep them away from the funnels. These to be removed when using the hand net. Block both of the funnels with a cloth before catching birds with net. A 50 ft. roll of 1" hexagon wire costs \$1.92 plus postage. Dealer's name will be sent on request. This roll is 4 ft. wide and allows plenty for cutting. If you don't possess a hand net, here is an easy way to make one. An old broom stick shortened to a handy length will make the handle. A wire coat hanger will make the frame for the net and the netting can be made from a string sack such as onions are shipped in. This can be procured at any vegetable store for the asking. Be sure to have the bag of the net more than twice as long as the width of the hoop, so that it will close. It is also a good idea to have the hoop bent back at a 45 degree angle from the handle so that reaching from the door it will fit against the sides of the trap snugly. Birds will usually seek the farthest corner from the bander. It hardly seems necessary but we add for safety sake the following reminders: Don't "swipe" at a flying bird with the hand net. Don't try to slip the net over the bird from the front of him, always try to have the net approach him from the back. Be patient. If a captive exasperates you, rest a while. Remember it is better to lose a live bird, that may be caught again, than to lose your patience and band a cripple.

TRAPPING TIPS

In placing a government sparrow trap or any funnel type trap, place it so that the bander usually approaches it facing the entrance to the funnel. Birds fear the bander's approach and occasionally will be frightened into such a trap while if the trap faces in the opposite direction the bird's first move is away from the trap and the approaching bander. This doesn't always work out, but the fact that it occasionally does, makes it worthwhile to consider such placing.

No matter how dexterous you think you are, use a cloth around your arm when taking a chickadee, kinglet or other small bird out of a single cell trap. Such a rule will prevent many escapes.

In trapping warblers, particularly Myrtle Warblers, the last one caught is the best bait...even better than water. With care in a brenckle or other mutiple cell trap you can have a decoy warbler in the trap for hours at a time, by leaving the last one in and yet never have the same warbler in the trap for more than 10 minutes.

Just because you now have some automatic traps, don't discard your beginner's pull string trap. You'll find that there are some birds that can't be caught by any other trap, that can be taken in a pull string.

A trap placed four or five feet from shrubbery will often, times catch more birds than a trap placed directly in the shrubbery or a trap in the middle of the lawn.

When building a door on an automatic trap it usually is better and less expensive, to use a stiff piece of wire for an axle and fasten the door to it with loops of wire than to use small hinges which soon rust and bind out-of-doors.

Don't discard odds and ends of hardware cloth remaining after you have built a trap. These small pieces can be bent into the form of a cone and tacked up, shoulder high, on the trees around your station. They make handy suet holders and help to keep the birds around your station.

If you have developed some helpful little trick at your station, why not let us pass the word around. Write Ebba Nus about it.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

The new officers of EBBA have decided that the time has come when our organization should be run by our total membership, rather than by a small governing body. The votes of members attending our annual meetings do not represent the sentiments of a majority, since relatively few people can afford to come from a distance to take an active part in our business.

Therefore our future policy will be to print ballots in EBBA NUS and invite every member to indicate his choice in any proposed business. This will include election of officers, time and place of the annual meeting, and any alteration of our general policies which may be desired. This is your organization. It is your privilege to help govern it.

At present three changes are under consideration by the officers, and your votes are solicited herewith.

1. In order to enable more banders to participate in EBBA, we propose to establish a new class of membership for one dollar a year. This will include subscription to EBBA NUS only.
2. The dues in the regular class of membership will be increased to three dollars a year, two dollars being for Bird-Banding and one dollar for EBBA NUS. With this added revenue, we propose to give you EBBA NUS more frequently than in the past. The Sustaining Membership of five dollars a year, which adds materially to our treasury, will be maintained as formerly.
3. It is proposed that a Councillor, or two, be appointed in each State and Province in our territory. The Councillor may call local meetings as desired during the year and discuss measures to be presented to the main executive body at Annual Meetings. He may also conduct local mem-

DAYTON STONEY
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
ALBANY, N.Y.

bership drives. Finally he may send ballots to his local members and receive votes from them on matters to be decided at the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting he may cast - or send by mail - a number of votes proportional to his local group of banders.

We hope these measures will bring all banders in our territory into the EBBA. Through a closer association and a larger membership we will all learn more from each other about techniques in bird banding. This will increase not only our own pleasures, but will add materially to the Science for which we are all working. EBBA will command greater public attention, which again will result in general public education with regard to the reporting of banded birds found dead.

Please fill in the following ballot, placing a cross in the appropriate space after each of the three proposals.

<u>B A L L O T</u>		
<u>Proposal</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. One dollar Membership (EBBA NUS only)		
2. Three Dollar Membership (EBBA NUS and BIRD BANDING)		
3. State Councillors and local groups		

Name _____

Address _____

PLEASE RETURN BALLOT ON OR BEFORE JUNE 10th, TO THE SECRETARY: GEOFFREY GILL
24 Overlook Ave.
Huntington, L.I., N.Y.