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# EBBA NUS



▲ Friendly Report to Members of The  
Eastern Bird Banding Association

September, 1940

Let Us Band Together

Vol. 3, No. 6

President: Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.  
Treasurer: George Dock, Jr., 119 Brite Avenue, Scarsdale, New York  
Sec. & Ed.: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L.I., N. Y.

## CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK

In our endeavor to trap and band a large number of birds, banders should not lose sight of the ultimate object of this work. Our aim should always be the advancement of the general knowledge of birds.

Everyone who has banded birds for any length of time, has experienced the thrill of receiving a card from the Survey, stating that one of his birds has been found at some distant spot. Many banders believe that such reports are received all too infrequently. Like the weather, many of us have talked about ways of increasing these reports, but few of us have done anything about it.

Educating the public to report a banded bird when found, appears to be the answer to this problem. Such education can be accomplished in several ways: By publication of articles in newspapers and magazines, telling about the banding method of bird study, (This is being done by many of us with good results); By a direct appeal made by banders speaking before clubs, groups and schools, and this is also being done by some of us at every opportunity. However, in this issue we introduce a third method and one that has been probably overlooked by many of us in the past. This is a method whereby we may be able to get two recoveries reported where only one came from before. The plan has been tried with some success, by Karl E. Bartel of Blue Island, Ill.

Mr. Bartel's thought is to acknowledge every recovery card received, with a form letter, similar to the one published in this issue. The Survey acknowledges these recoveries, of course, but we feel the finder would evidence more interest in our cause upon hearing directly from the person who actually banded the bird. If we can get this discoverer of a banded bird to tell his friends about the incident, or to have something published in his local paper pertaining to his find, who can say but that another recovery might be reported from the same or a nearby place where only one was reported and forgotten before.

To facilitate the sending of such acknowledgments by all of us, EBBA NUS offers copies of such letters, minus the text shown here in capitals, either on Association stationery or on the bander's personal 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 11 letterhead at the rate of 15¢ a dozen. Larger quantities will be made at a similar reasonable cost. May we ask, if personal stationery is desired by the bander, please mail it to us flat and well wrapped.

Please send your order in as promptly as possible, to the Secretary, address above.

YOUR NAME  
YOUR STREET  
YOUR TOWN.

"Over Three Million Wild Birds Wear Bands"

MR. JOHNNY APPLESEED  
22 MAIN STREET  
OHMY, PA.

Dear MR. APPLESEED:

I have been informed by the U.S. Biological Survey that you have found a bird carrying band No. 35-000000. THIS BIRD WAS A ROBIN BANDED BY ME IN MY TOWN ON MAY 25th, 1936 AND, I UNDERSTAND, FOUND DEAD BY YOU IN MIAMI, FLA., ON JANUARY 4th, 1940. IN THE LAST TEN YEARS I HAVE BANDED 603 ROBINS AND THEY HAVE BEEN FOUND ALL OVER THE SOUTH IN THE WINTER MONTHS, 7 BEING FOUND PREVIOUSLY IN YOUR STATE.

By means of these numbered metal bands, investigations relative to the migration, the length of life of birds, where and how they migrate, if they return to the same place season after season, and other facts pertaining to the life history of North American birds are being advanced by 2,500 volunteer workers associated with the Biological Survey all over America.

All kinds of native birds are being studied by the banding method. Nearly every kind of the 768 species of birds found in the United States have been banded. Some species have been banded in small numbers while the banded individuals of some kinds number tens of thousands.

Bird banding dates back to 1899, when a Danish schoolmaster started to band storks, teals and starlings. His success at once attracted the attention of European ornithologists and it was not long before bird banding work came into prominence. In America, the first bird banding on a large scale was started in 1902 by Dr. Leon J. Cole. Bird banding continued to develop and in 1920 it had grown to such proportions that it was taken over by the U.S. Biological Survey. In the following twenty years approximately three million wild birds have been banded and a great deal of scientific knowledge has been collected. Much of this has been due to the cooperation of people like yourself who have reported birds found with a band. We banders, of course, are pleased to hear from any one who has found a banded bird and believe that if all such "finds" were reported, recoveries would increase at least 30% and help us with our studies. Will you please examine all dead birds you see and ask others to do so. I feel sure that more of my birds are in your area.

To those who may happen across a banded bird, a careful reading of the serial number stamped on the band is important. No two numbers are alike and this number is the key to the entire system. On these bands will be found a request to "Notify Biological Survey, Washington, D.C." or an abbreviation of the same message. There will also appear a number, sometimes preceded by a letter, such as "A", "B" or "C" or as in the present system, a numeral designating a year, such as "34", "35", "39" or "139". A band number is correctly reported as A-262801; 35-110501; or as 139-11701.

Thanking you for making this report and hoping to hear from you again sometime, I am

Very truly yours,

P.S. Will you please hand this letter to your local paper as news? Thank you.

YOUR NAME.

## NEWS OF THE BIRD BANDERS

Barton L. Sharp of Lititz, Pa., reports the banding of a Gambel's Sparrow at one of his stations on April 16th, 1940. This is probably a State Record and it is hoped that he will publish it in some recognized journal. Sharp took several photographs of the bird which distinctly show the white superorbital line extending to the bill. Another unusual capture of his was a 5 ft. black snake, in a sparrow trap.

Harry T. Davis of Raleigh, N.C., banded 1,000 fledgling beach birds in the North Carolina coastal colonies this summer. He hopes to get many of the banders in his state cooperating next spring and meet for a trip to the colonies in order to band several times as many birds next year. This will be a fine and worthwhile undertaking.

Malcolm J. Lerch of Penn Yan, N.Y. reports banding as unusually slow in his area recently. He mentions a Robin, 2 Song Sparrows and a Maryland Yellow Throat in one trap at one time which doesn't seem slow to "ye editor". He reports a White Crowned sparrow banded in May, 1938 recovered in Texas in November, 1939 and an immature Robin banded in September, 1939, found frozen in Louisiana this January. Mr. and Mrs. Lerch state that high water in the marsh make their annual banding of hundreds of Barn Swallows impossible this year.

William Pepper, Jr. of Wyncote, Pa., recently went on a "Vacation Banding Trip" with his father, Dr. Pepper. This trip covered the various small islands, beaches, etc., from Brigantine south to Stone Harbor along the New Jersey coast. The "haul" was as follows: Common Tern 112, Least Tern 44, Skimmer 52, Piping Plover 3, plus a number of Song Sparrows and Red Wing Blackbirds.

Sh...The exact location is a deep dark secret, but we are allowed to say that Dr. C. Brooke Worth of Swarthmore, Pa., banded 4 young Snowy Egrets this summer somewhere in New Jersey.

LeRoy Wilcox of Speonk, N.Y. states that he found 60 nests of Piping Plover this summer and was able to band 113 adults on their nests as well as banding 100 young. He also succeeded in trapping 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939 young as nesting birds this year. Mr. Wilcox has some Osprey migration data, which it is hoped, will appear in Bird Banding at an early date.

Gustave Dumont, Jr. of Lyndhurst, N.J. hopes to arrange a meeting of the New Jersey banders at his mother's banding station at Pequannock, N.J. this month. A Saturday has been suggested with everyone bringing a picnic lunch and any pet traps they like to bring along. An informal affair is planned with everyone contributing something in the way of ideas on trapping methods. Everyone should contact Mr. Dumont and plan to attend. His address is 438 Stuyvesant Ave., Lyndhurst, N.J.

Allen Montgomery of Owosso, Mich., banded a normal male adult Robin in March, 1932. Caught as a return in April, 1933, it was then a very pronounced partial albino.

### MORE BLUE JAY DATA

Blue Jay banding records continue to arrive by mail. William Pepper, Jr. of Wyncote, Pa. reports 157 banded in 10 years with 14 returns and 8 recoveries, 2 in New York State. Merrill Wood sends some migration data and Leroy Wilcox reports banding 104 in 13 years with 26 returns and 6 recoveries. W. M. Davidson of Beltsville, Md., reports 187 banded, with 45 returns and 1 recovery. Your secretary now has data from members who have banded 2,022 Blue Jays with 207 returns and 38 recoveries.

## WHO IS WHERE

William W. Grant of Geneva, N.Y. will leave Geneva on the 16th of this month to spend the winter in Tuscon, Arizona. He will return to Geneva next May.

Miss Lisa von Borowsky of Brooksville, Fla., has just returned to Florida after spending several weeks in Tarrytown, N. Y.

George Dock of Scarsdale, N.Y. recently returned from a trip through New England where he visited several banding stations.

Leroy Wilcox of Speonk, N.Y. just returned from a trip around Northern New York State where he visited several of the northern banding stations.

## TRAPPING HINTS

For those banders who are so situated that they can trap and band shore birds Leroy Wilcox reports a bait that they can't resist. This bait is the eggs of a horse-shoe crab. The trap is of the funnel type and we hope to tell you more of it in a forthcoming issue. Just now, we are overcome, in our blissful ignorance, as to the problem of catching the horse shoe crab eggs. We believe that they float around in the water and we leave it to the never failing ingenuity of the banders to devise ways and means of procuring a dozen or should we say a mess?

While on the subject of eggs, may we call attention to the well known fact that Flickers like ant's eggs. George Dock reports that a supply of these is easily procurable as they are sold at some pet stores. Now that the source of supply for this bait is solved, is there anyone who can suggest a sure-fire method of trapping flickers. Immature flickers will occasionally go under a large drop trap of the pull string type but the older birds seem to have more wisdom.

This is the time of the year to load your traps with wild berries, such as elder-berries, poke berries and "ink" berries. Dogwood berries are also excellent but in most areas will not ripen until a little later. Place generous "bouquets" of any of these berries in your traps and you will be rewarded with a catch of members of the thrush family, catbirds, thrashers, etc. Nanny berries or any berries of the viburnum group of shrubs are excellent for bait purposes.

Which brings us to the matter of fall planting. If you have toyed with the idea of setting out a few more shrubs in your garden this season, remember, there are certain bushes the birds consider the "berries". Ebba will be glad to send you information along these lines.

By all means, if you have an old apple tree on your station grounds, move a water drip trap close to it or under it for warblers this fall.

## LAST MINUTE MAIL

The regional meeting of the New Jersey Banders will take place on Sunday, September 22nd at the residence of Mrs. Marie Dumont, Pequannock, N.J. All nearby banders should try to attend.

As we close this issue (Sept. 15th) the A.O.U. has just brought to a successful conclusion their 58th annual meeting. Held in Boston, it was a four day session. Pursuant to E.B.B.A.'s aim to cooperate to the utmost with any group which furthers ornithological studies, we sincerely recommend the acceptance of any invitation received by a bander, to join this splendid organization, the American Ornithologists' Union.