

EBBA NUS

A Friendly Report to Members of the
Eastern Bird Banding Association

*D. Foster
Paid. 12/18/40*



December, 1940

"Let Us Band Together"

Vol. 3, No. 9

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.

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL

As Christmas approaches it is fitting that we take this opportunity to wish each and every bander a most happy holiday. May 1941 be a year in which you and your banding station achieve greater success and wider recognition of the splendid work you are doing.

As we begin this last issue of Volume 3, the biggest in the number of issues, it is natural that we look back and glow with a sense of satisfaction, realizing what the zeal of our members has wrought. These monthly news-letters are the result of no one person's efforts but the thoughts and ideas of many. Due to the limitations of our purse and of our medium, these ideas have been offered in a concentrated form. Nevertheless, each and everyone of us can feel that we have been instrumental in helping each other to become better banders.

It would be impossible to close such a message without a word in tribute and appreciation for the enthusiastic work of our State Councillors. These ladies and gentlemen have worked diligently, writing scores of letters with only an occasional reply from non-member banders. To these banders go our heart-felt thanks. All credit for the substantial increase in our ranks is due to their efforts. It is due to their letters, their personal visits, that we can happily report that our organization now has more members in good standing in more States than ever before.

It is our hope and aim in 1941, to continue what Dr. Carleton M. Herman started in 1938, and give our members a bigger and better EBBA NUS, and by so doing follow the advice of Beecher S. Bowdish, who was first to say, "Let Us Band Together".

BIRDS OF LONG ISLAND

Issued by The Bird Club of Long Island, N.Y., No. 3 of these publications features "Data from a Bird-banding Station at Elmhurst, L.I." by Marie V. Beals and J. T. Nichols, both members of EBBA. Notes on the Robin, Bicknell's Thrush, Starling and many warblers are included. It is well worth having and can be obtained by sending \$1 to The Bird Club of Long Island, Inc., Roslyn, N. Y.

FRANK B. FOSTER

We regret to announce that Frank B. Foster, a former President of E.B.B.A., passed away at his home at Pheonixville, Pa. on November 27. Mr. Foster always had an active interest in bird banding and this Association is greatly in debt to him for his advice, aid, and enthusiastic leadership in days gone by.

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

E. A. Bergstrom, in charge of the color banding heron project, has changed his address to 731 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, Conn. He reports that one recovery was received from Panama City, Fla. On Nov. 26, 1939. - Inland News.

Dr. C. B. Worth of Swarthmore, Pa., is writing a nature column in the weekly newspaper, "The Swarthmorean". The issue of October 18th featured a plea to report bands found on any dead birds, and a more recent effort is one "winchell-ing" on the White-throats.

Raymond S. Deck, 305 Sixth Avenue, Pelham, N.Y., a recent recruit to our tribe, anticipates the publishing of a book on birds next Spring. He would like to get in touch with banders who have some good photographs which haven't been published before. Mr. Deck has had two splendid bird articles in the Saturday Evening Post recently, a magazine never stingy with rejection slips.

Richard B. Fischer of Flushing, N. Y. reports passing the thousand mark early in November. Hear tell, he conducts much of his banding in a nice quiet cemetery, which goes to show, if you haven't a garden in which to band, but a will to band, there's always a way.

Speaking of places to band, Lawrence Howe of Belmont, N.Y., says he has a 30 acre sanctuary and game refuge. Mr. Howe reports that he saw a male Cardinal on November 8, the first this season. "Cardinals nest in this locality, I'm sure, but I can't find a nest. Two years ago, I banded 2 pairs at my home and last winter saw a female here at the cabin (3 miles from his residence) with a band but could not be sure that it was mine, although no one has ever banded one in this section. Cardinals are one of the highlights here as none have been noted until I saw them two years ago. None of the books credit us with having them. We are in Southwestern N. Y., 50 miles east of Chautauqua Lake." Mr. Howe also mentions banding a Great Horned Owl brought to him by hunters who had winged it. He also asks for suggestions as to the feeding of wild ducks in the winter on a 12 acre pond nearby. Please send him your suggestions.

Double congratulations from all of us. Word has just reached us that Merrill Wood Jr. arrived safely at the home of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Wood of State College, Pa. According to all recordings, this makes the jovial Dr. Harold B. Wood and Mrs. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. the happy grandparents. If Junior grows up to be only one-half as nice as his folks, he'll be a grand lad.

The November issue of Pennsylvania Game News carried a 2-column picture of the Gambel's Sparrow caught at Barton L. Sharp's banding station by Guy Bomberger on April 16th. It also carries data about the finding of two banded birds, one a bluebird, No. 38-244650 picked up on August 30 in Harrisburg and later released unharmed and the other a Robin banded five years before in the same place.

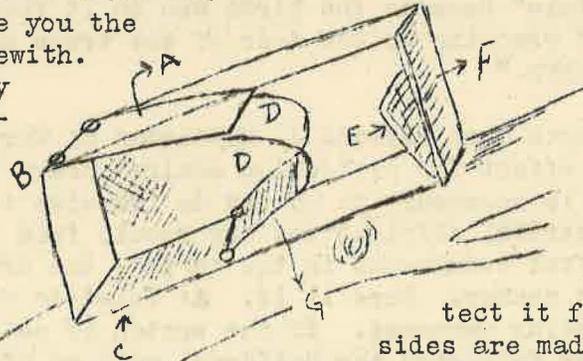
Rev. Edward Stoehr of Washington, D. C. has some very interesting data on a pair of Brown Thrashers that have returned to the same place and at the same time. He also has the records of some interesting recoveries found at a considerable distance, such as hawks, crows, Mourning Doves, Robin etc. Wish we had space to list some.

In 1933 and 1934 Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa., banded 150 young Black Crowned Night Herons. One banded June 7, 1933 was reported found in Colon, Matanzas, Cuba on February 20, 1940. Another banded the same day was found the following March in Pinar Del Rio, Cuba.

A SIMPLE AUTOMATIC TREE TRAP.

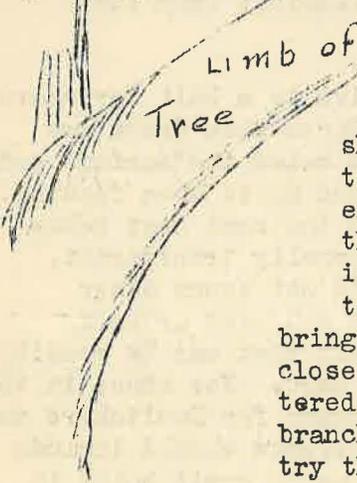
Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa., again emerges from a cloud of concentration and figuratively speaking, takes us up a tree to catch some woodpeckers and such, which have similar feeding habits. He says he has the original of the sketch below in a peach tree in his garden and it has turned out to be a peach of a trap. Never being one to flout the advice of a M.D. we give you the simple instructions herewith.

May we add that our only complaint with all woodpecker traps is that we always run out of woodpeckers much too soon. The obvious answer to such a problem is to move the trap around your neighborhood.



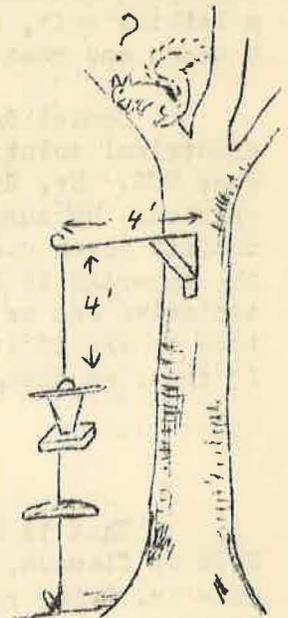
This trap is 8" wide by 8" high and is 16" long. The bottom and end "F" is solid wood 1" thick to protect it from snow. The top and sides are made of hardware cloth without a frame as the bottom and end will give sufficient support. Possibly glass would be better than the hardware cloth.

The door, "A" made of hardware cloth swings on 2 rings from "B" and should be 9" deep so when closed it should hit the bottom of the trap at "C". "G" is a hinged treadle platform the width of the trap and fastened at one end by rings to the floor of the trap. At the other end of the treadle 2 wires "D" are bent back just so that the door is kept from falling. "E" is a suet basket. The bird enters the trap and to reach the suet, steps on the treadle, bringing the 2 wires forward and allowing the front door to close. The bird is taken out through the same door he entered. Use a cloth to prevent escapes. Just find a low branching limb that can be reached from the ground and try this one.



THE GRAY SQUIRREL - DAD DRAT 'IM

George Dock, Jr. of Scarsdale, N.Y. writes that he is trying out Horace Groskin's (Ardmore, Pa.) idea of keeping a good many free feeding stations around the place in addition to the traps, both in winter and summer. "Most of my free stations", he writes, "are now fixed so that squirrels cannot possibly reach them. They are suspended by wires from 4 ft. brackets nailed into trees 8 or 10 feet above ground". To combat winter winds, anchor them to the ground with another wire attached to a broomstick handle driven well below the freezing level. To discourage mice, a tin pie plate fastened midway on the lower wire helps. A coat of paint of a woody color makes such equipment fade into the proper garden background.



Ever notice that a suet holder placed on the under-side of a limb will discourage Starlings and Blue Jays from taking all the suet and doesn't hinder woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees a bit. Try it with one or two.

TRAPPING HINTS

Richard B. Fischer of Flushing, N. Y., reports that he is unable to operate his traps all day, so in the morning, just before leaving home, he turns the traps over on their sides and sprinkles some additional grain around them. "This has two highly desirable effects", writes Mr. Fischer, "Namely, the birds learn the location of the traps and frequent them much more, and the ground under the trap doesn't become "stale" because the birds see to it that there is no food left. I have not tried propping up the door of the traps and leaving them open as it seems a little risky."

Noting in pictures that Raymond J. Middleton of Norristown, Pa. uses evergreen branches to good effect for protection against heavy snows in the vicinity of his traps, all that is necessary to go and do likewise is a generous supply of evergreen boughs. As marital difficulties may result from lopping off several branches of the ornamental evergreens in the garden, the problem should be approached in a different manner. Here it is. At Yuletide many churches use evergreen boughs for decorating purposes. If the sexton of said church is approached in an appropriate manner following the holidays, with an offer to take these branches off his hands, the ultimate result will include blessings from the harassed sexton and the winter birds.

Further to the remarks in the September NUS, relative to a bait for shore birds, LeRoy Wilcox of Speonk, N.Y., states: "The eggs of Horse-shoe Crabs are found in the sand along the shore. They are about 2 inches below the surface and are found by digging down in the holes made by Dowitchers and Knots when feeding. They are black, but seem to be discolored due to the mud in the sand just below the surface. I am not sure but I believe these eggs are normally transparent. The shore birds went after these eggs in a big way but would not touch other samples of food that I experimented with, such as duck feed and meat or beef scraps. Perhaps someone will eventually find a suitable bait that can be readily obtained." Well, editorially speaking, this doesn't seem hard. For those in the summer, that have a beach handy, all that they need do is watch for Dowitchers and then prod around the little holes in the beach. Sartorial effects should include a bathing suit, as there is a certain species of clam that makes small holes in a beach and react to a casual prodding in a surprising manner.

Daniel Smiley, Jr. of Mohonk Lake, N.Y., writes in regard to a suggested electrical solution for gray squirrel trouble around the traps, carried in the June NUS. Mr. Smiley states: "I am sure that it would not be a solution as printed. My suggestion involved the use of one of these electric cattle fence outfits which does use four dry cell batteries. The voltage is stepped up and the amperage is stepped down. The suggestion of a copper wire was entirely a tentative one as I had not, and have not yet, had the opportunity to try out this idea to see if it would be practical." -- Go slow, banders, on this suggestion - It seems as though "Ye Editor", as usual, has his wires crossed.

JUST A DEAR SWEET SOUL

That is how we should describe Davis Quinn, of parts unknown. Dr. R. E. Ware of Clemson, S.C., sends us a page torn from Adventure Magazine. On this page Mr. Quinn replies to a reader in Ohio who inquires about banding and as to how he can become a bander. Mr. Quinn answers his unknown correspondent adequately and in a masterly manner. The part that covers our organization with blushes is as follows. We quote from Mr. Quinn's printed reply: "Ask Washington to put you in touch with the Eastern Bird Banding Association, their bulletins are worth receiving." Yes, Mr. Quinn, wherever you are, we think you are just a dear, sweet soul!

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM
BANDERS OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE

The always interesting contents of EBBA NUS, as exemplified in Vol. 3, No. 7, suggests certain thoughts:

The Titmouse record for Ardmore, Pa., reminds that when we first went to Demarest, Bergen County, N.J., this bird was local and not abundant. It's everywhere now.

As to Cowbirds: Surely band all of them one can. Have an adequate supply of bands. Their food habits offset parasitism in the economic scale and UNDISTURBED nature takes care of her own.

We frequently get opossums in our traps and deport them ten miles or more. Never destroy wild life unless it seems necessary. Skunks, however, are in a different category. Neutral, possibly even beneficial in feeding habits, the human hazard resultant from too close association seems to justify pretty strong measures of "control". We used to deport them (nearly 20 in one season). Execution is the present measure. They can be coaxed from a wire trap into a solid box trap and transported to an appropriate execution location if one is quiet, alert and not too fearful.

Nuthatches and Chickadees are taken frequently in our ground traps without any special preparation. On the other hand, the same type traps, placed on small shelves, bracketed to trees and properly baited, take these and Downy Woodpeckers readily.

Christabel E. and Beecher S. Bowdish, Demarest, New Jersey.

MORE ABOUT COWBIRDS

Re: Mr. Dock's item on Cowbirds, I do not use the same size band for them as for White-throats. Cowbirds take a No. 2, but it seems we never will get band sizes ironed out.

O. A. Stevens, Secty. of INLAND B.B.A., Fargo, North Dakota.

Incidentally, Mr. Dock reports the capture of a Cowbird at his Scarsdale, N.Y. station wearing a foreign band on Nov. 17th. Band No. 40-212599. Who banded it? This is the second foreign banded bird Mr. Dock has taken.

WELL, OF ALL THINGS!

May your editor be forgiven for stealing this little space to "toot his own horn". After banding 782 Myrtle Warblers without any returns, few repeats and 1 recovery a few months later in South Carolina, it had just about been decided that placing bands on these "cute little critters" was getting to be a waste of good bands. Then along comes a card from Washington, reporting that another of "our" Myrtles had been killed in South Carolina. This bird was banded Oct. 23, 1933 and was killed Feb. 1, 1940, making this mite almost 7 years old!

We would also like to mention that dues are due for 1941. These are \$1, \$3, or \$5, and are payable to the treasurer whose address is on the front page.

"EBBA NUS"
Eastern Bird Banding
Association

Geoffrey Gill, Sec'y.
Overlook Dr., Huntington
Long Island, New York

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.



Dr. Dayton Stoner
New York State Museum
Albany
N. Y.