

BANDING NOTES FROM ABROAD

By Fred S. Schaeffer

It occurred to me, that all these Dutch banding publications I am receiving are just gathering dust on my bookshelves. Since there are several EBBA members among the Dutch, I felt as an Americanized Dutchman that I should write a short article from time to time about the highlights of the Dutch banding effort. These publications come to me in Dutch, and while I am able to read it still, I might as well take advantage of the information passed along to me. Of course, for those genuinely interested in European banding endeavors, I would like to suggest that they subscribe to The Ring (\$3.00, write to me for more information).

I receive some Dutch and German ornithological publications, the Dutch ones issued by Dr. A.C. Perdeck and B.J. Speek and consisting of one annual report of bird banding in the Netherlands, and a bi-monthly bulletin, very similar in size and organization to EBBA News. From Germany I occasionally get a periodical from my good friend Dr. Keil, who gave me many fine weekends with his family, trying to teach me how to handle birds and nets near Frankfurt am Main, while I was stationed there with the U.S. 7th Army from 1962 through 1963. Dr. Keil, who operates the bird-migration station "Untermain" and works on a nest-attentiveness study with the latest electronic equipment, is also an EBBA member.

In any case, the Dutch (we are back to Holland now) banded a total of 128,913 individuals in 1966 of which 2,857 were recovered. They also list many recoveries of birds banded elsewhere, e.g. Africa, USSR, and it is interesting to note that despite political differences, ornithologists are able to work together amicably through EURING, an organization similar in scope to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's banding office.

There are several very interesting recoveries. A Ruddy Turnstone was banded in the Netherlands on Sept. 10, 1964 and was recovered at Ellesmere Island (approx. 84° north lat. & 81° west long.), a distance of about 3,000 miles, on June 27, 1966. My reference books tell me that this bird migrates from Greenland and environs via Iceland through Europe to southern Spain - quite a trek.

Then there is a nice record of a Barn Swallow (which also breeds in Europe. -Ed.) - although the report does not state where it was banded, it was recovered in the Netherlands on Jan. 30, 1966 (first-year adult) where a band was added, following European practice. It was recovered again on May 5, 1966 in Pretoria in the east of the Union of South Africa, a distance of 5,500 miles.

There is a record of an Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) which is vague as to the place of recovery, but the bird was banded on June 21, 1936

and recovered on Oct. 23, 1965. Approximate age = about 30 years (it was banded as an immature).

Another interesting record is that of a Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) which I mention, although it is a European species, since there are two known records of this species in Massachusetts (1907 and 1937), and there are two sight identifications from southern New Jersey and an adult was collected on Moriches Bay, opposite Mastic on Nov. 15, 1946 by C.L. Muller (see Birds of the New York Area by John Bull). This particular bird which was banded on May 19, 1958 at Copenhagen, Denmark, was found among a flock of 148 birds at Vlieland (a north-coastal island of Holland) on Sept. 6, 1967.

Although these records are all very interesting, I hope I have not put your recollection of geography too much to the test. Holland is a small country about the size of Maryland. I therefore sympathize with the Dutch bander, even more, who was trying to find where the Red Creek Camping Ground O.R. station was located (in West Virginia). Of course, he thought that it would be in the west of the state of Virginia!

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Female Sparrow Hawk
...about to be re-
leased. Photo by
J. Douglas Whitman

BACK ISSUE
NEEDED

Our supply of back issues, kept to meet requests by members for issues or sets, has recently been taxed by several orders for full sets and we no longer have Vol. 24, No. 2 (March-April 1961) of EBBA News. If any member has an extra of this issue, please send it to the Editor - we will be happy to provide a stamped, addressed envelope if desired, and to furnish the donor with other back issues he may need.