

At the Island Beach meeting I pestered quite a few people, including some Banding Office personnel, with my tale--but apparently no one knew of a similar situation.

Having suffered through this rather humbling experience, I returned home and with some misgivings sent in my schedule, listing my "strange one" as a probable melanistic House Finch.

I write this in the hope that other banders may profit by the telling, and thus I come to the "hindsight" part of my tale: Should some whim of chance permit that same bird to return to my net in any future Winter, I am determined to collect him for positive identification.

--Walter Post Smith, 3009 Chesapeake Avenue, Hampton, Va. 23661

REVIEW

"Of Mosquitoes, Moths, and Mice"

By C. Brooke Worth
c. 1972

W.W. Norton & Co, Inc., New York, N.Y. 258pp. \$8.95.

Here is a delightful book which should be read by all persons who enjoy nature. The author, a Life Member of the Eastern Bird Banding Association, and an entomologist by profession, has the unique ability to make the inner secrets of nature with emphasis on behavior, readily understandable through his easy-going "armchair style" writing.

The story doesn't only deal with the families mentioned in the title, but gives a finely balanced ecological picture of those and ecologically related families of birds and turtles. That picture is both factual, very informative to the reader, and humorous.

The site of his investigations is at his farm at Delmont, N.J., a place infested with mosquitoes; thus, it could not have been a better research area for an entomologist. Brooke Worth has the envious ability to realize that there's something worth noting in the behavior of all the creatures on his farm and he takes the

reader on a step-by-step guided tour, sharing his delights with us.

In this reviewer's opinion, what Niko Tinbergen is to the Herring Gull, Brooke Worth is to the mosquitoes, moths, mice, birds and other creatures on his farm.

(Reviewed by Fred Schaeffer)

WALTER P. NICKELL
1903 - 1973

On January 2, 1973, Walter P. Nickell, Ph.D., a longtime member of EBBA, passed away, at the age of 69.

An avid birder since his teens in the Kentucky Woodlands, watched with love the broods of wild turkey, caught the flash of the cardinal and the Baltimore Oriole, learned to recognize the great horned owl and all the birds found in the land where he grew up. Spending his early teens in his father's camp as a lumberjack and a cook, he entered High School at age 17. He finished High School in two and a half years and college in about the same time, and earned his B.A. degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College. He has worked in New York as a social worker, became a high school principal in the southern mountains of Kentucky.

In 1935, Walter Nickell joined the Cranbrook Institute of Science, where he was employed since. He has been an aspiration to the youth and to conservation. He has given his time generously and with devotion to his work.

In 1964, he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, by Central Michigan University.

Walter Nickell, as bander, naturalist, conservationist, lecturer and writer, has banded 200,000 birds of almost 400 species during his work. He has published over 100 articles in the Wilson Bulletin, The Auk, The Jack-Pine Warbler, American Midland Naturalist, The Ring, Bird-Banding, and many more.