



# EBBA NUS

*D. Stoner*  
*Recd. 12/2/41*

A FRIENDLY REPORT ISSUED MONTHLY TO THE MEMBERS  
OF THE EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

Members In  
Florida, Georgia, South Carolina,  
North Carolina, Virginia, Mary-  
land, Delaware, District of Colum-  
bia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey,  
New York, and other States and  
in Canada.

December, 1941

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

Vol. 4, No. 12

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Secretary: Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.  
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## WE PLACE ANOTHER VOLUME ON FILE

With this issue we close out the fourth volume of EBBA NUS. In so doing we wish to send you our thanks and best wishes. A Merry Christmas - and we mean it with deep sincerity, to everyone of you. Your letters and postals have brought us close together in spirit, although we have been miles apart. You have helped each other, with practical banding ideas and the sharing of points of view. You have helped me, beyond my ability to express, with your ideas, sense of humor and common sense. You've made the job of being Editor a happy and interesting task. Thank you -- and a very Merry Christmas to you, one and all.

## SCIENCE WILL BE SERVED or OUR PREXY DROPS IN ON THE CANAL

Dr. C. Brooke Worth, our president, has just been assigned to lead an expedition to Panama for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Dr. Worth will sail on December 26 and will return in about three months. In the meantime, he wishes to thank the many banders who have sent in data on their banded Juncos. Since publication of the November issue, five or six additional reports have been received. All these compilations will eventually be summarized in an article on the Junco for Bird-Banding, and each contributor will receive acknowledgment for his own records. A delay in the preparation of this paper will unfortunately occur due to the above mentioned trip.

Beecher Bowdish and "Ye Ed" are thinking seriously of suggesting an amendment to the By-Laws, so designed as to keep our Presidents "to home". Last one we had, went gallivanting off to Africa after some elephants or something - and now here is Worth slipping off to a banana republic on some sort of monkey-shines. Well, good hunting to you, Prexy, and if you should see Panama Hattie down there you might say "Hie" for Beech and me.

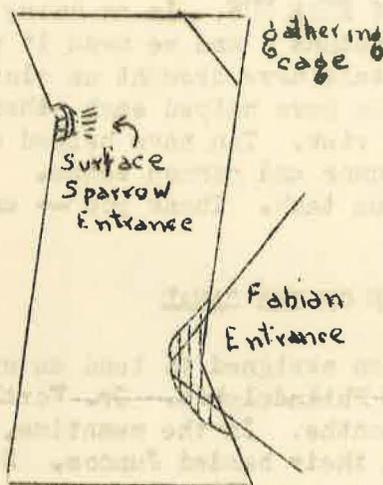
## WHAT ONE DOESN'T CATCH, THE OTHER DOES.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wylie of Montvale, N.J. report the banding of 328 new birds since Oct. 8th. Two-thirds of this catch were White-throats and **Song Sparrows**. **They report** that hordes of Goldfinches are going by but they are unable to catch one and that they are getting only a few Juncos. "None of our six traps are top-openers which may partly explain it and the Fabian we built probably needs weathering".--on the other hand.....

Mrs. G. A. Dumont of Pequannock, N.J. writes "November has been a rather good banding month--one particular species - the Goldfinch - has been abundant, having banded 38 this Fall as against 44 during the last 8 years...in 1940 we banded none at all".

## TRAPPING HINTS

Mrs. O. F. Jensen of Chapel Hill, N.C., sends us what we consider a splendid idea for use when taking birds out of a trap so designed that you reach in after the bird, such as a government sparrow trap. (Did you ever scratch yourself up trying to get a chickadee out of such a trap?) Mrs. Jensen writes: "To fit over the hole of my square trap, Mr. Jensen made a board with a large hole in it as illustrated. Over the hole is a piece of slit rubber tubing through which we reach for the bird. This does away with a sleeve and does not allow a bird to slip through since it fits closely around the wrist or arm. By placing the board over the opening, it is only a matter of a moment till the bird is out and in your hand with no fuss." We might add also that your sleeve hasn't caught on the wire and the bander still has all the skin on his arm and hand.



Leon D. Cool, Jr. of Falls Church, Va. writes that he solders his traps because it gives a much neater and more solid construction. "The two gathering cages in the Fabians I have built are as specified in plans sent out by EBBA, and I find them very unsatisfactory. I think the swing or sliding door that holds the birds in the gathering compartment should be at least one half the height of the trap. I find that it takes much too long to get the birds into the gathering compartment... At present I am working on a Fabian trap with two entrances. It is a different shape than the original." Mr. Cool's new design for the Fabian is shown herewith and we expect more details on his improved gathering chamber. Ebba is always glad to hear about the traps recommended by the "Nus" and the responsibility for this fault really rests with the chap that drew the illustration rather than with the designer of this trap. At least Mr. Cool is catching birds in his Fabians.

## NEW MEMBERS

It is always a pleasure to introduce to the finest group of bird banders in the world, a few more active banders who have joined our growing association. This month it is our pleasure to present:

Mrs. H. D. Crockford, Box 816, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Raymond J. Fleetwood, Piedmont Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Round Oak, Ga.

Frederick V. Hebard, 1500 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

W. A. Morris, 796 Elias Street, London, Ontario, Canada.

Carleton A. Sturdevant, R.D. No. 1, Prattsburgh, N.Y.

St. Francis Science Club, c/o Sister Mary Esther, St. Francis High School, Clearfield, Penna.

## NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

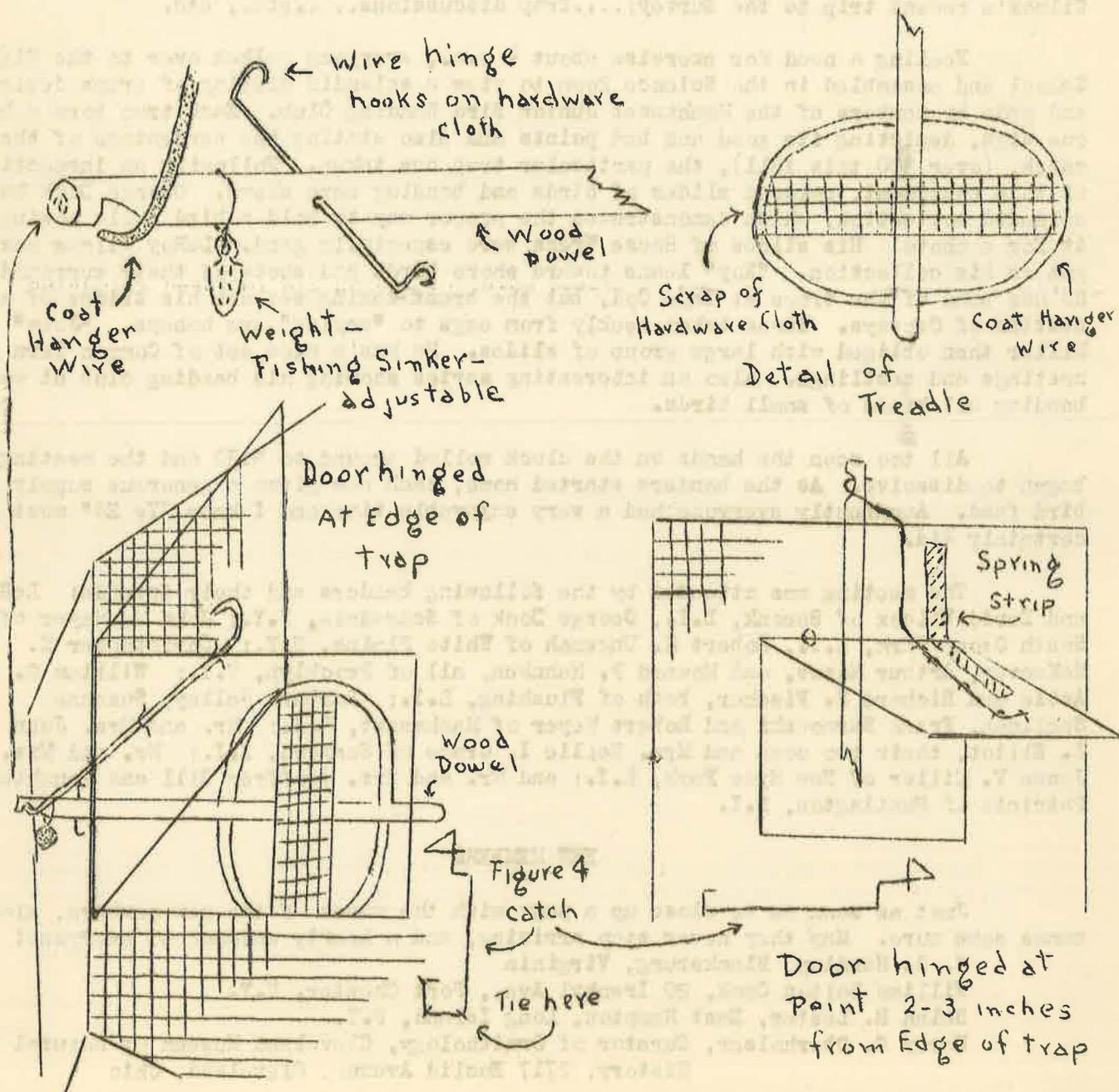
Studies concerning the Blue Jay in the north Atlantic states, yet incomplete, show that more returns appear in the November records than in records for any other of the colder months. Following closely on these findings, along comes a letter from George Dock, Jr. of Scarsdale, N.Y. reporting the return of 4 Blue Jays between Nov. 11 and 16th. Two of these returns were banded in 1939, one in 1940, and the fourth banded in July this year as a young bird of the year. On Nov. 6th he also trapped a Junco that he banded on Jan. 26 of this year. So few returns of this species have been reported despite the great number that have been banded, that this capture is of interest.

THE NEW MILLER HITCH

Jesse V. Miller of New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y. submits this sketch of his outside trip for top-opening automatics. This hitch was on display at the recent regional meeting of the Long Island banders and caused considerable interest.

It has several obvious advantages, among which is the fact that all "apparatus" is outside of the trap and is therefore easier to adjust and set. It makes possible a larger doorway on traps of this type and does away with a lot of excess space needed by former hook-ups and makes it possible to have more top-opening doors in a trap of the same size. By cutting down the size of a unit or the inside cell measurements in a trap the chance of a bird injuring itself is reduced as the bird has less space in which to flutter around.

It is doubtful whether the ultimate in trap construction has been reached as yet, but this new hitch may be a step in the right direction. When you are overhauling your top-opening traps this winter why not install one or more of these new Miller "trips"?



## THE MANHASSET MEETING

Scheduling an open-air meeting on Long Island, N.Y., on the 29th of November is tempting fate and flirting with the weather-man. But, believe it or not, it was so warm on that Saturday afternoon, that the gathered banders dispensed with overcoats and had them scattered all over the landscape. Such things cramp one's style when toasting frankfurters on a stick. Starting around 2, banders straggled into this piece of woodland, behind the Manhasset High School, by ones and twos, like so many crows returning to an evening roost. At four p.m. only a dozen remained out of 96 frankfurters, dozens of cup-cakes and cookies had vanished, a chocolate cake was a wreck, thermos bottles and cider jugs were empty, but the banders were not!

Lack of space prevents a detailed report of the orgy, but some of the high spots can be disclosed. Among these was the arrival of "Dick" Fischer of Flushing with a Shrike he had caught and banded that morning! A friendly argument ensued between Fischer and "Jess" Miller and his club, as to whether or not the Shrike should be released around their banding station....The story of the Sharp-shinned that went right through a dining-room window after a Starling - it got the Starling, too!..... Wilcox's recent trip to the Survey;....Trap discussions.....etc., etc.

Feeling a need for exercise about 4 p.m., everyone walked over to the High School and assembled in the Science Room to view a splendid display of traps designed and made by members of the Manhasset Junior Bird Banding Club. Each trap bore a humorous sign, depicting its good and bad points and also stating the percentage of the catch, (over 300 this fall), the particular trap has taken. Following an inspection of this equipment, colored slides of birds and banding were shown. George Dock had a splendid collection, which demonstrated the proper way to hold a bird while posing it for a photo. His slides of House Wrens were especially good. LeRoy Wilcox next put on his collection. "Roy" leans toward shore birds and shots of their surroundings. He has some of the traps at Cape Cod, but the breath-taking set are his slides of a nesting of Ospreys. These taken weekly from eggs to "eagles" are honeys. "Jess" Miller then obliged with large group of slides. He has a nice set of Common Tern nestings and nestlings. Also an interesting series showing his banding club at work banding all kinds of small birds.

All too soon the hands on the clock rolled around to 5:30 and the meeting began to dissolve. As the banders started home, each was given a generous supply of bird feed. Apparently everyone had a very enjoyable time and I know "Ye Ed" most certainly did.

The meeting was attended by the following banders and their friends: LeRoy and David Wilcox of Speonk, L.I., George Dock of Scarsdale, N.Y.; John H. Mayer of South Ozone Park, L.I., Robert K. Ungemah of White Plains, N.Y.; Christopher K. McKeever, Arthur Moses, and Howard P. Mahnken, all of Brooklyn, N.Y.; William O. Astle and Richard B. Fischer, both of Flushing, L.I.; Barbara Galley, Susanne Spellman, Frank Sarnowski and Robert Meyer of Manhasset, L.I.; Mr. and Mrs. John J. Elliot, their two sons and Mrs. Nellie I. Crane of Seaford, L.I.; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse V. Miller of New Hyde Park, L.I.; and Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Gill and daughter, Patricia of Huntington, L.I.

### NEW MEMBERS

Just as soon as we close up a page with the names of the new members, along comes some more. May they never stop arriving, and a hearty welcome to everyone!

C. O. Handley, Blacksburg, Virginia

William Bolton Cook, 20 Irenhyl Ave., Port Chester, N.Y.

Selah R. Lester, East Hampton, Long Island, N.Y.

Harry C. Oberholser, Curator of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 2717 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

## WELL...OF ALL PLACES!!

Banded birds turn up in strange places, but the recovery of a full-grown Ring-billed Gull from the gullet of a large fish caught off the southern coast of Rhode Island ranks among the most unusual recoveries recorded by the Department of Mines and Resources. On the gull's leg was an official numbered band, the record of which revealed that this bird was one of a group of 171 young gulls banded in August, 1939, on a small island near Kegaska, on the North shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.....N. Y. Times.

## NETTING

Some banders say their birds are damaged by the wire of the traps. The Linen Thread Co., New York, Boston and Baltimore, make fish nets which are very suitable for bird traps; made by the yard like seine nets. These nets in the  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch mesh size are 12 ft. wide. Those with  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch mesh are 15 ft. wide. Either costs \$2 per running yard, (Price quoted last August by Lands End Marine Supply Co., 303 Commercial St., Provincetown, Mass. and subject to change). These nets are very suitable for traps but are not the netting used at Dr. Austin's famous station on Cape Cod. Dr. Austin's nets were imported from Italy. These American nets are white and would have to be dyed a dark color or could be dipped in a thin tar solution. The price quoted above comes to about 6 cents a square foot. They can be bought in any length and the thread is about twice the thickness of the wire usually used in traps.

## BAIT

Wm. G. Scarlett & Co., 743 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, Md. put up a very good bait for seed-eaters known as Oriole Brand Wild Bird Feed. A 5 lb. package retails for 45¢. A postal to the above address will bring any bander the name and address of the nearest retail dealer. This firm sent a very generous supply of their product to be distributed as samples to banders attending the recent Long Island meeting.

## NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

John McMahon of Harrisburg, Pa. spent the summer at Stone Harbor, N.Y., where he banded 110 young Laughing Gulls. This is the same place where John Gillespie of Glenolden, Pa. banded many gulls several years ago. Mr. McMahon said that he did not see any adults wearing bands but did see a Red Throated Loon while there.

Leon D. Cool, Jr. of Falls Church, Va., a new bander this year, reports the banding of Redwing Blackbirds, Barn Swallows, Crows and 1 nest of Ospreys which certainly represents a varied assortment. He states he is experimenting with a trap for Ospreys but has had no success as yet. In his area Ospreys nests are usually 100 ft. high in dead trees, which makes the banding of the young difficult.

William H. Laurence, formerly of Washington, D.C. is now banding at 737 Packard St., Ann Arbor, Mich. Good luck to you at the new station.

Well, here we are at the close of another year and it becomes necessary to mention the matter of dues. Yes, they are due again and should be sent to our treasurer, whose address appears on our front page. For those who haven't already attended to this matter, it might not be amiss to add that the 1942 dues are \$1.00; (full membership with Ebba Nus); \$3.00 (full membership with Ebba Nus PLUS the official quarterly, Bird Banding); and \$5.00 for those who wish to extend a helping hand to our organization.

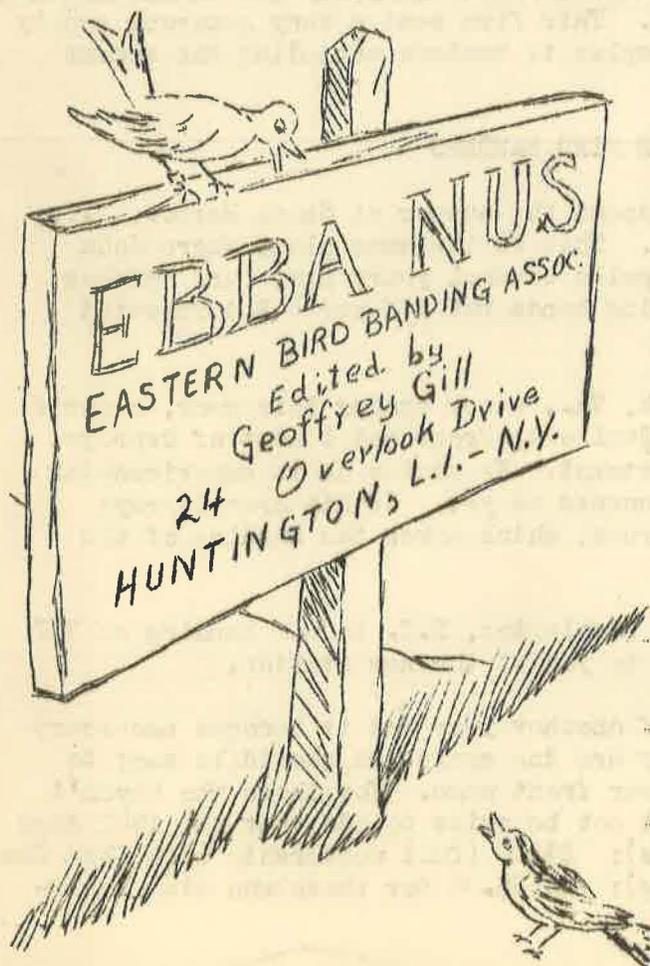


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Sec. 562 P. L. & R.



Prof. Dayton Stoner  
New York State Museum  
Albany, N.Y.

