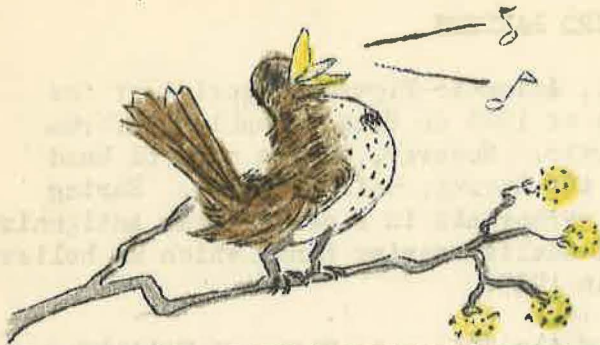


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# EBBA NUS

A Friendly Report to Members of the  
Eastern Bird Banding Association

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February, 1941

"Let Us Band Together"

Vol. 4, No. 2

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## LET'S HAVE A FEW MORE RETURNS

We are sending this issue of EBBA NUS to all members of the Association whose dues were paid for 1940, but because of mailing and incidental expenses, we shall be unable to send the March issue and subsequent numbers of EBBA NUS to members who are delinquent in their 1941 dues. Likewise, the January issue of BIRD BANDING will be the last that can be sent to members whose 1941 dues covering a subscription to that magazine remain unpaid. As of January 31st, 1941, over half of the 1940 membership had already paid their dues for 1941. Their prompt cooperation is deeply appreciated.

We have made payment of the 1941 dues as easy as possible by sending all members a return envelope and card so that they only had to make out their checks, enclose them and mail the return envelope to qualify as paid-up 1941 members. If you find a red check mark in the margin of this page, our records show that we haven't received your dues. If we are in error, we shall be glad to make the correction; otherwise we suggest that you make payment now.

Send your check to George Dock, Jr., Treasurer, 119 Brite Avenue, Scarsdale, N. Y., made payable to the Eastern Bird Banding Association. In that way, for \$1 you will continue to receive all the 1941 issues of EBBA NUS and, of course, BIRD-BANDING as well, if your payment is \$3 or \$5. You are the best judge of whether your past annual dues have brought you your money's worth from these publications.

## MEETING PLANS

As the time draws near for the annual meeting, the officers and members have discussed plans at some length. Many have suggested the City of Washington as the place, but the thought that smaller regional meetings be held in each area first, has grown increasingly popular. It is now proposed that these smaller meetings be held at the State Councillor's call very shortly. It is hoped that an officer of EBBA will be able to attend all such meetings, acting as a liaison officer for the organization. In this way more members can attend a meeting and the voice of the membership will be more clearly expressed, without the necessity of some members travelling long distances. There is also the election of officers for 1941 to be considered. Everyone should vote upon this. To gather the opinion of the majority on these plans, a questionnaire will be included with the February NUS and sent to all members in good standing.

## NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

Harold S. Peters of Charleston, S.C., Atlantic Flyway Biologist of the "F. & W. Service", writes that he spent most of 1940 in Canada seeking information about ducks and geese of the eastern Arctic. However, he was able to band almost 100 small birds around his garden in the Spring, while at home. During June, he banded 100 nestling double-crested cormorants in a colony near Antigonish, Nova Scotia. He writes that he saw several adults wearing bands which he believes were birds banded by him at the same place in 1937.

Miss Lisa von Borowsky, Supervisor of the Chinsegut National Wildlife Refuge, Brooksville, Fla. writes that Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes, visited her refuge for two weeks early in January.

In the December issue of the NUS, we were rash enough to hint that Richard Fischer did his banding in a cemetery. Mr. Fischer denies the allegation. It appears that this bander does his work, and splendid work it is, too, on two large estates within a block or two of his home in Flushing, L. I. For the sake of the record we are glad to correct such an impression.

The banders EBBA meant to refer to, are Joseph Hines and his son, Robert, of Long Island City. They band in a corner of St. Michael's Cemetery in Astoria, L.I., not far from LaGuardia Airport. Their station is very active and is the only place thereabouts containing a few trees for miles around. Consequently migrants pour right in there. These two men have banded about a thousand birds this past year, including such species as Phoebe, Mourning Warbler, Bicknell's Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow and Connecticut Warbler. Yes, EBBA still thinks "a nice quiet cemetery" is a good place in which to band.

## TRAPPING HINTS

Henry P. Baily of Overbrook, Pa. calls attention to the double trap illustrated in the June issue of the NUS. He says he notices that the trigger rests on the middle partition and believes this is a mistake. When a trap is built this way and a bird goes in one side it starts off the trigger on the other compartment. "I build each compartment in such a trap facing the opposite way so that the trigger will rest on opposite sides. Lately I have been building my traps in a long line. In these each compartment has an upright support for the trigger to rest on and a trapped bird in one compartment doesn't interfere with the other triggers."

It is the belief of Richard Fischer of Flushing, N. Y. that some members know about using wire coat hangers in the construction of traps. "But", he writes, "I think there must be many who still buy their wire. Coat hanger wire is just the right gauge for trigger and reinforcing. I use it almost exclusively".

Albert L. Baily III of West Chester, Pa., suggests when handling larger birds, the use of an open mesh pillow-case of dark material. He finds it very handy while opening bands or for taking them from a large top-opening trap.

Lawrence Howe, of Belmont, N.Y. reports the banding of a nestling Flicker on June 27, 1938 recovered at Dover, Georgia on November 2nd, 1939.

Lots of good bait hints will be found in "Wings At My Window" by Mrs. A. C. Govan, published by The Macmillan Co., New York City - \$2.50.

## MORE ABOUT TRIGGERS

The previous issue has started a deluge of data about triggers. Some ideas warrant a description in detail with illustrations. Here are one or two thoughts while such material is being prepared:

"Regarding triggers and particularly the one using reed for the perch of a top-opening trap, it appears that one could save a little money, if, instead of buying the reed, the bander would cut some young shoots from a tall, old privet hedge or a willow. These shoots are very supple while green and can be shaped easily."

"The same reed can be purchased through any mail-order house at less cost than reported in the January NUS".

"And here is another trigger that centers around the use of lolly-pop sticks which can be picked up in any quantity around a public school. These usually come in three standard lengths and two sizes and are really small dowel sticks. Take 6 of these and make a chisel edge on one end of each one. Then take a piece of cedar shingle, split it from butt to tip so that you have a stick about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch wide. In the butt end, bore 3 holes an inch apart to fit the lolly-pop sticks. Then dip the chisel end of these small sticks in glue, taking one in each hand, force them both into one hole from opposite sides at the same time. Do this with the three pair and it will result in a trigger with three wide arms like a telephone pole. This is a cheap and good trigger. Try it."

## "WINGS AT MY WINDOW"

Many banders have secretly thought that they could write a book about their experiences, but have never done much more than think about it. "Wings At My Window" by Mrs. Ada Clapham Govan of Lexington, Mass., is this dream book come true. We highly recommend it to all back-yard banders and suggest it as a "must buy" for 1941.

## THE FOOD QUESTION

It has been brought to the attention of EBBA that the high cost of "eats" for wild birds presents somewhat of a problem. Feed mixtures in small quantities purchased from a local dealer range anywhere from 10¢ to 20¢ per lb. Bearing this thought in mind, a representative attended the Pennsylvania Farm Show and got samples, prices and specifications from no less than five firms from Buffalo to Maryland on suitable feed for wild birds. In judging the feed, transportation from factory to feed hopper at the least expense was given first consideration. We will be glad to send you the names and address and data from all five firms on request in exchange for a stamped and self-addressed envelope. Here is a sample of what you will get:

Pratt Food Company (Buffalo Mills), Buffalo, N.Y., Philadelphia office: 124 Walnut St.; The Pratt "Intermediate Scratch Feed" considered the best food at the show. Contains most varieties of grains; cracked corn, wheat, oat groats, milo, kaffir and buckwheat. It costs \$1.75 per 100 lbs. at Buffalo, \$2. at Philadelphia. Small quantities cost a little more. Will send by mail, express, freight, plane or taxi lots of 10, 25 or 50 lbs. A little sunflower seed and some millet added to this mixture looks good to us and we'll bet the birds will say it tastes better than it looks. See your nearest dealer or write us today.

"EBBA NUS"  
Eastern Bird Banding  
Association

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