

# EBBA NUS

DAYTON STORER  
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM  
ALBANY, N.Y.

MAY 31 1941

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.

May, 1941

Let Us Band Together

Vol. 4, No. 5

President: Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.  
Secretary: Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania  
Treasurer: Robert K. Ungemah, 10 Jackson Avenue, White Plains, N.Y.  
Editor: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L.I., N.Y.

## WHAT THE BALLOTS DECIDE

Speaking for the entire association, EBBA wishes to thank the many members who responded to our appeal in the April issue and sent in their ballots. These late ballots gave a more complete picture of just what the majority of the association wants, both in respect to officers and the other subjects mentioned in the questionnaire. This association is YOUR association and every member is entitled to equal consideration, bearing in mind that we can only succeed through the whole-hearted cooperation of every one of us. The total response to this ballot was excellent and beyond our highest hopes; the information and proffered suggestions most valuable and worthwhile. May we take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to everyone.

By overwhelming majorities, the vote of our membership is to place the following members in office for the current year:

President: Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Penna.  
Vice Pres: Dr. Harold B. Wood, 3016 North 2nd St., Harrisburg, Penna.  
Vice Pres: Miss Lisa von Borowsky, Chinsegut Hill Sanctuary, Brooksville, Fla.  
Secretary: Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Penna.  
Treasurer: Robert K. Ungemah, 10 Jackson Avenue, White Plains, N. Y.  
Editor of EBBA NUS: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Dr., Huntington, L.I., N.Y.

It goes without saying, that these offices are honorary and entail the donation of considerable time, energy and enthusiasm. Our membership has made a splendid record in the past by their willingness to cooperate at all times. This new slate has splendid possibilities and it is hoped that with the help of the members they will be able to carry our association to new heights.

## SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT BANDING

In answer to the question on the ballot as to how we could get more band recoveries reported, nearly every reply suggested publicity. Some even suggested particular mediums. Throughout this issue, you will find a number of items reporting the success of our members in this particular field. Such publicity can best be handled personally and by individual contacts. Good clear photos are a help. We particularly wish to mention a three-quarter page spread of beautiful banding pictures that appeared in the "Evening Bulletin" of Philadelphia on April 26. This is that city's largest afternoon paper. The pictures and captions describe the banding work of Horace Groskin. Incidentally, Mr. Groskin's station has had an invasion of Goldfinches recently and since Feb. 10th he has banded 470 of them.

## TRAPPING HINTS

Now is the time to make arrangements with your uncles, nephews, cousins, and your aunts, also your friends and neighbors, to band the young birds in any of their bird houses. Plans should be made so that you are called upon the phone when the young in the bird box begin to be vocal.

We are told that Sears & Roebuck sell a fine pair of "long-nose" pliers for only 26¢. "They're swell banding pliers and open all sizes above No. 2 very nicely. For opening sizes lower a small pair of cuticle scissors, 10¢ (in any five and dime) do a fine job. Not only do they open bands evenly and quickly, but they do not mar bands like an ice-pick does."

If you still have some spring planting to do around your place, don't forget a berry-bearing shrub or two for your feathered friends. There is still time to plant a few sunflower seeds back by your fence. Surely you can find a spot.

It has been called to our attention that the wire bridge in the Fabian tunnel trap, illustrated in the April issue, should be loosely attached, by two wire rings, to the walls of the trap, so that a large bird upon entering doesn't raise the bridge up on its back and misplace it. It should be so attached that it will lift up but fall back in place after the bird has entered.

On any trap using a closing door sliding on rods or wires, it is suggested that these rods be left unpainted. Paint retards the sliding action.

Ever scratch your hands or arms or get your clothing caught reaching through the gathering door of a trap built of hardware cloth? This annoyance can be easily overcome by binding the edges with rubber. Here's how: Most hardware stores sell  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch rubber tubing for 5¢ a foot. Get a sufficient quantity of this and cut it open with a pair of scissors, then slip it around the edges of the opening and wire it fast with light copper wire. If your wife assists you with your banding, she'll appreciate this thoughtfulness.

## NEW TRAP RESULTS

EBBA is always glad to learn of banders who have tried traps described in previous issues of the NUS and to receive comments and suggestions.

George Dock, Jr., of Scarsdale, N.Y. has altered several old flat traps into one Fabian Tunnel Trap and reports moderate success. In regard to a new trap (built of new material) following the plan of the Fabian as shown in our April issue, the results have not been satisfactory as yet. This is believed due to a lack of weathering. It seems in many instances that a trap must be weathered and tested over a period of at least three months before it can be properly judged. The site of the trap is also a consideration. Your secretary has two Bronckle traps exactly alike. One is a month old and the other is three years old. The older trap, in the last month has taken four times as many birds as has the new one, yet both have had similar bait and the new one is apparently in the better location. Later letter from Mr. Dock states the Fabians are now working fine and are taking a goodly number of grackles.

Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa., in a recent letter writes: "I altered a trap here from one with a drop side on a pull-string to a tunnel and within a day got a Robin I had banded three years ago; two more Robins since. I watched one quite a while and he couldn't find his way out. The hinged partition (also a feature of the Fabian Tunnel Trap) I put into another trap which I have had trouble getting the birds out of --- they would not go out of the exit into a net or a gathering cage. Now the trap works. EBBA NUS is doing a lot to help the members."

## REPORT OF THE JUNIOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jesse V. Miller, Chairman of this committee reports that A. L. Tobey of the Consolidated School of Dublin, New Hampshire, is using Junior High School students to help with his banding. The students work during migrations and attend traps three or four hours each day. Only those who show special proficiency are allowed to handle birds and then only under Mr. Tobey's supervision. Banders visiting this section should drop in on him and pay him a visit. Mr. Tobey's group was in the thick of the recent Purple Finch invasion. (During this past winter, it is understood that there was another invasion of this species in this general area.)

Edward Mason of the Wharton Bird Banding Station at Groton, Mass., Mr. Miller also reports, is looking forward to some work with Prep. school students at Groton. His "gang" has already formed a bird club and they are busy building a trap for summer use under Mr. Mason's watchful eye. (It is understood that Mr. Mason is giving his students practice in handling birds, by having them handle English Sparrows, but this is not confirmed.)

Mr. Miller concludes his report, "This has lecturing (to school children) beat a thousand ways in developing real 'bird mindedness'---".

### BIRD MOVIES AND PROJECTOR SLIDES

There are several good movies in 16 mm. (home movie) size on the market dealing with birds. We want to compile a list of the best and particularly those pertaining to banding for publication in Ebba Nus. If you know of any good ones will you drop a card to Jesse V. Miller, c/o Manhasset High School, Manhasset, L.I., N. Y. Give full details, including title, size (mm.), whether film may be borrowed or hired and of course, the price.

At the recent meeting in Manhasset, (L.I. Zone), it was decided that a library of 35 mm. Kodachromes, (single pictures) owned by the association would be a very worthwhile addition. Many members are regularly called upon for lectures before local organizations. Usually such talks are limited to what the speaker can put across with his voice. A set of about 25 Kodachromes in natural color, showing banding operations, traps and banded birds would be invaluable. Any member could borrow the set, paying all transportation charges and the cost of duplicating any slides broken. (25¢ each). If you like the idea and have any such pictures, please send a card to Mr. Miller. Say what you have and if it fits we may want to borrow the slide or slides long enough to have duplicates made. Several slides have already been promised.

### NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

"Better Homes & Gardens" for April contains an illustrated banding article by Donald Culross Peattie. As this magazine claims a circulation of 2,200,000 it should help in the education campaign.

The March issue of "The Reader's Digest" contained a condensed article on birds and banding, based on the book "Wings At My Window".

On Jan. 1st, 1941, Raymond J. Middleton of Norristown, Pa. started banding his twenty-second thousand. White Throats top his list with over 4,000 individuals and Robins are next with 2,867. More details later.

## ANOTHER MYSTERY BAND

"On March 23, 1941, I captured a Purple Finch in rosy plumage that had on its left leg what appeared to be a private band with #101 on it. The band was unusually large, measuring 16 mm. in length when flattened out, by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in width (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide) which is about equal in width to our #6 band. In other words, the band was at least four times as large as the usual #1 band for Purple Finches. The band had adhesive tape inside for the purpose, no doubt, of protecting the bird's leg.

"I removed this band and attached our regular #1 band #41-39250. I am now seeking some information regarding this foreign recovery."

Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Rd., Ardmore, Pa.

## THAT COWBIRD APPEARS AGAIN

On May 4, 1940 Mrs. Edward M. Fielder of Katonah, N.Y. banded a female Cowbird. On Nov. 17th, George Dock of Scarsdale captured the same bird in his traps. On Feb. 28th, 1941 this Cowbird walked into the home of Clem Scott at Walkill, N.Y. which is on the opposite side of the Hudson from Scarsdale. The bird was so tame that Mr. Scott had no trouble picking it up and reading the number. In reporting the incident to EBBA, Mr. Dock adds: "This incident bears out my belief that the Hudson River tends to keep birds on the western side for a considerable distance on their Spring flight, while in the autumn it tends to keep them in Westchester County or the Eastern side, until they find they have to cross the river anyway if they are to keep away from Wall Street and all its evil works."

## NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

Congratulations are in order again. That stork arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse V. Miller of New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y. last month. Everyone is delighted and happy about the visit. As Mr. Miller states it is a "new" daughter, we assume that this visit of the stork was a return-2.

Late correction: Miller now writes "We are three".

The magazine section of the New York Sunday Times of April 5th carried a splendid three page article on banding with plenty of pictures. George Dock, Jr., our tireless treasurer was the proud author.

The "Rod and Gun" column of the N.Y. Herald-Tribune carried a small boost for banding and banders in their issue of April 14th.

Harold S. Peters, Atlantic Flyway Biologist of the Fish & Wildlife Service, of Charleston, S.C., started on a three and a half months intensive field tour of Canada and Newfoundland on April 22nd.

Harold H. Krug, our Councillor in Canada reports supplying material for a newspaper article in the St. Thomas Times-Journal recently.

Miss Dorothy Caldwell of Mount McGregor, N.Y. is the author of a fine article on Chickadees, the leading story in the April issue of "Feathers", a monthly publication of the Schenectady Bird Club. The article is based on four years study by banding.

Dr. C. B. Worth of Swarthmore, Pa. recently made five miniature traps for an exhibit of banding at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Dr. Worth also spoke to the Swarthmore College assembly on bird banding in the later part of March. Your humble secretary delivered a similar dissertation before 800 High School lads and lassies on April 9th.

WHO IS INTERESTED IN WHAT

Continuing the list started under this heading in our February issue, we give below the special studies or interests of several more of our members. May we again repeat that it is our hope that banders having data of interest to the members listed below will please write them.

Raptorial Birds -(various aspects)

Dr. Robert M. Stabler, Wallingford, Penna.

Returns of Resident Birds

Miss Caroline Reed, 129 W. Seymour St., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Warblers and Songs of Birds

Rev. Edward Stoehr, Capuchin College, Brookland, Washington, D. C.

Population Studies - (in regard to land elevations)

Carl A. A. Pedersen, Hillcrest Ave., Montvale, N. J.

Plumage in Tails of Robins & Juncos,

Dr. Harold B. Wood, 3016 North 2nd Street, Harrisburg, Penna.

Plumages of Juncos

Daniel Smiley, Jr., Mohonk Lake, Ulster County, N. Y.

Migration -(in lower Westchester County, N. Y.)

George Dock, Jr., 119 Brite Ave., Scarsdale, N. Y.

Wing Measurements and Plumage

Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Rd., Ardmore, Penna.

Blood Parasites of Birds -(Specifically malaria)

Mrs. Leslie Stauber, Box 303, Port Norris, N. J.

Length of Stay of Migrating Birds

R. J. Middleton, Marshall St. & Whitehall Road, Norristown, Penna.

Chimney Swifts & Ducks

Harold S. Peters, R.F.D. #1, Box 171, Charleston, S. C.

Migration of Gulls

Howard H. Krug, Chesley, Ontario, Canada  
Joseph J. Hickey, Consolidated Edison Co., Room 845-S, 4 Irving Pl.,  
New York, N. Y.

Migration of Field, Chipping and Tree Sparrows

W. M. Davidson, 243 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md.

"EBBA NUS"  
Eastern Bird Banding  
Association

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



562 P. L. & R.



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Albany, N.Y.