

EBBA NEWS

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

"Let Us Band Together"

Reaching Over 375 Banders Every Month

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October, 1944

Vol. 7, No. 10

"Ye Ed" PRAYS FOR THE DELUGE

On August 13th, Paul Downing of Highland Park, Ill. wrote, "I suppose that you have been deluged with notices about the 13 banded Swifts that were taken in Peru. Although we have banded only a few hundred Swifts, we were fortunate enough to have one of ours in the group. -- Banded 8/8/39 - killed in Peru in December, 1943."

This was the first "tip" of any such sensational banding news we had. The lone paragraph in a letter giving several old age records of birds, was thought provoking to say the least. "Ye Ed" promptly went into a mental tail-spin. Are we running a news-letter or not? This really is news and what a story. Should we wire Washington for full details -- is the story on the way and delayed? At last, a clue to the wintering grounds of the Swifts, -- a puzzle to ornithologists for years. Maybe Washington will get a release out to all banders, but then there's the paper shortage. It's too late for the August issue of the NEWS. -- we'll wait and sit tight. Guess the story has been released to the press services, -- make a good human-interest story, -- rate a double column head, front page of second section or the Sunday editions. Must watch for it. Don't think it has been missed, but will look in the papers saved for salvage. This will be fine publicity for banding, -- a deluge alright and how we need one for banding right now.

August 19th, a letter from Raymond J. Fleetwood of Round Oak, Ga., states, "I have additional enthusiasm for Swift banding since one of my banded birds has been recovered in South America; -- see attached note. I might add that 12 other banded Swifts of 7 banders were reported from the same vicinity on the same date." The note enclosed is a copy of a story released to the "Oriole" and the "Atlanta Journal". The deluge is beginning! Nice story, asks folks to report banded birds when found, too. The note says that Fleetwood has banded 29,000 Swifts and the one that was killed by Indians in Peru was banded from the Grand Lodge Bldg., Macon, Ga. on September 17, 1939. Further from this note it is learned that these birds were killed on the Yanayaco River in Peru. The birds were reported to the American Embassy and through the State Department to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Hmm -- recoveries from 7 banders, probably several states, -- surely there will be an Associated Press story. Indians and everything, -- although the Indians of Peru are hardly the Indians of our West, -- more the peon-type, or something like the Navajos on an off day. "Ye Ed" should know, -- he was God-father to a number of them about 20 years ago in southern Ecuador. Who knows, this party of "Indians" may include some of his God-children. 'Spouse, they bottled the Swifts up in some cave and slaughtered the whole flock, -- use the bands for ornaments, beads or something. How the bands got to the American Embassy, -- a question there, but what a story this would make.

August 30th, Miss Mabel T. Rogers writes from Balsam, N. C., to tell us the same news and adds that Lt. Ben Coffey, stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. wrote her the news. It appears that he banded 5 of the Swifts recovered, at Memphis, Tenn. This discloses the bander of 7 of the 13 Swifts. Miss Rogers closes her letter with the comment, "Isn't this exciting news!"

No story in the papers yet. Where is the deluge? As a former member of the 4th estate, we agree with Miss Rogers. This is exciting news, but, shades of Edwin Booth where is it?

MORE WREN RESULTS

As a result of some statistics on banded House Wrens appearing in the July EBBA NEWS, others have tabulated their banding results. Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. writes: "51 adults banded and 4 of these returned the following year; -- none returned the second year. 74 nestlings banded and never heard from again. Nests contained 1 set of 7; 2 of 6 and 5 with 5 eggs. Richard B. Fischer, writing from Roscoe, N. Y. reports that he has banded 172 House Wrens, 37 adults and 135 nestlings. 2 adults and 1 nestling have returned so far. He also reported another banded female present which eluded all efforts to capture it. "Ye Ed" has a suspicion that this species has a very high death rate in their first year.

BLUEBIRD BANDING IN GEORGIA

Raymond J. Fleetwood of Round Oak, Ga., reports on his Bluebird banding project and we learn that he banded 510 fledglings and 8 adults this summer. 19 adults were taken with "the gadget", (an automatic closing door for bird houses.) "I finally got one of the gadgets to work pretty well. I had 10 returns, most of them taken with "the gadget". I have made a tabulation of this summer's work which brings the total number of Bluebirds banded by me to 1,041."

The tabulation runs 3 pages and herewith is a glimpse of the high-lights in the results:

Boxes erected	96	Eggs Laid	767	Yg. killed by snakes	13
" occupied	88	" destroyed	122	Killed other causes	23
Clutches laid	182	" deserted	11	Eggs infertile	70
" destroyed	31	" hatched	661	Yg. banded	269
" deserted	3	Yg. Killed by ants	7	Escaped w/o bands	27

Mr. Fleetwood also writes, "Seems that my Swift banding for this Fall has hit some snags. The Service has informed me that bands L-B are not available for Fall work. I would appreciate bands size L-B or L-A from any bander that will not be able to use them this Fall. I can have them transferred to me so that the records of the Service will be straight. I hate to think that I'll not be able to band this Fall as I am located in a strategic place for this work. Some bander could be of good service by letting me have some bands if they are not going to use them soon. Bands will be available for next Fall in 1945." If any bander can help Mr. Fleetwood, write to the address above and he will be glad to help with the details of the transfer.

"NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A WOMAN!" - Ladies Home Journal

"I have no special banding project, for you see, I just tend the traps while my husband is at work. This summer we have been running about 30 traps and I make the rounds at 9, 12 and 3 o'clock. It only takes from 20 minutes to half an hour each time during the summer; but sometimes in the winter, I'm kept pretty busy, especially after a snow storm. Then, of course, I go oftener. I have never kept track of the percentage I've banded, but, do you suppose it could compare favorably with my husband's? Anyway, banding is very interesting and I love it! Our most common species is the Song Sparrow, - we've banded 186 since July 1st; also 35 House Wrens; 38 Catbirds and 74 other species to make a total of 333 for July and August." - Mrs. Malcolm Lerch, Penn Yan, N. Y.

"Ye Ed" is in much the same "boat" as Mr. Lerch and is appreciative too.

SONG SPARROW OBSERVATIONS IN MARYLAND

By W. M. Davidson, Takoma Park, Md.

An article on Song Sparrows by Dr. Wood in the July issue of EBBA NEWS prompts me to offer the results of observations on this species in Maryland over the period 1931-43. The current year's captures are omitted in order to obviate periods of less than a calendar year. No banding was done in August 1933 nor in January or February 1938.

In the table given below all original captures of flying birds are enumerated, no nestlings were banded. All through the period 2 substations, one suburban and one rural, were operated, except in the 3 months above noted. Until November, 1934, unfortunately distinction between localities was not recorded and therefore no division is shown previous to that month. However, it may be said that Song Sparrows bred yearly near the traps at the first rural station, (near Silver Spring, Md.) — marked "R" and at both suburban stations (Silver Spring and Takoma Park, Md.) marked "S", while at the second rural station at Beltsville, Md. (where banding commenced in July 1934) Song Sparrows rarely bred in the vicinity of the traps.

Season	Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall	
	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S
1930-31		0		2		3		6
1931-32		1		21		18		46
1932-33		0		51		8		15
1933-34		13		39		1		2
1934-35	1	2	7	2	0	8	1	1
1935-36	3	1	7	3	0	2	0	0
1936-37	0	0	27	9	0	2	23	0
1937-38	14	1	23	3	0	6	21	7
1938-39	9	0	33	3	5	5	12	4
1939-40	1	1	45	2	0	3	0	2
1940-41	1	3	54	3	0	9	5	4
1941-42	7	0	37	12	0	15	2	4
1942-43	1	1	42	1	0	11	6	3
Total		60		426		96		162 - 744

Winter includes Nov., Dec. & Jan.

Summer includes May, June & July

Spring " Feb., Mar. & Apr.

Fall " Aug. Sept. & Oct.

Study of the table shows that practically all the birds banded in the summers of 1935 to 1943 inclusive, were taken at the suburban station at Takoma Park, only 6 of the birds ringed in May through September having been taken at the rural station at Beltsville, Md. Of these summer-banded birds, at least 59 including the 6 Beltsville individuals were immature.

The comparatively large number of birds captured in spring were chiefly migrants, and a smaller fall migration during October and November appears evident although some of these may have been birds of the year.

RETURNS AND RECOVERIES: From the 744 birds banded there have resulted 34 station returns-1, all but one within a year of the original banding date; 4 station returns-2, all within 2 years of the original banding date. 7 of the former were immature birds and were probably permanent residents. Of 8 returns of birds taken both originally and as returns during the spring and fall migrations, intermediate captures of 6 indicate that these birds were resident and not migrants.

Although comparatively large numbers of spring and fall migrants have been trapped it seems unlikely that any of these were taken in succeeding years and it

may be doubted that these birds visited the same spot more than once in their succession of northward and southward journeys.

Three recoveries are noted as follows: One bird banded at Silver Spring on May 22, 1932 was found dead within a few miles of the point of banding on August 2, 1935 and is the oldest bird observed; Another bird banded at Beltsville on March 25, 1937 was taken at Millburn, N. Y., on July 8, 1938; A third, banded as an immature at Takoma Park, Md., on July 7, 1941, returned to the station on April 8, 1942 and was collected near Axson, Georgia, on December 10, 1942. This last record suggests a migratory tendency in birds banded in Maryland.

SUMMARY: In 13 years of banding in Maryland within 15 miles of Washington, D. C., 744 Song Sparrows were banded, 34 birds were retrapped as station returns-1, and 4 of these were subsequently caught as returns-2. Three recoveries are noted. No older birds than 4 years, as far as is known, were taken.

The winter population of Song Sparrows is very limited. It is followed by a large spring migration which extends over a period of about 6 weeks from the last few days of February to mid-April. The migrating birds may repeat several times during their pause in the journey. Most of the birds captured in summer were immatures but during October and November migrants were again in evidence.

My experience with Song Sparrows are in agreement with those expressed by others, in that many of the birds are constant repeaters, occasionally enter traps at dusk and are adroit in escaping when traps are opened.

HERE IS ANOTHER RECORD

Dr. William Pepper of Melrose Park, Phila., Pa. writes that he banded 105 birds in 1914 and with one blank year since, he has been banding for 30 years. Can anyone beat that record? This summer he particularly enjoyed banding at the beach. He banded 198 Black Skimmers, 130 Common Terns, 47 Least Terns, 10 Turnstones, 2 Sanderlings and 2 Spotted Sandpipers. The Turnstones, Sanderlings and Sandpipers were caught with shrimp for bait. The Skimmers and Terns were banded as young unable to fly.

MORE DATE ON PURPLE MARTINS

Further to comment by Dr. Wood in the June issue of EBRA NEWS, in regard to the banding of Purple Martins, Rev. John W. Baechle of Collogeville, Indiana has sent a tabulation of his work with this species during the last 4 years. The summary of his banding is as follows:

<u>Summer of</u>	<u>Banded</u>		<u>Returns</u>
	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Juveniles</u>	
1941	15	24	2 ads. returned in 1942
1942	22	40	2 ads. returned in '43 and 2 ads in '44 (2 ads. returned in both '43 and '44)
1943	37	60	
1944	27	41	7 ads. returned in 1944***
Total	101	165	Grand Total 266

*** 1 adult was found dead nearby in 1944 and can be considered as another return. Another adult, banded April 28, 1943 was found dead on May 21, 1943 50 miles to the north at Hobart, Indiana.

None of the juveniles have ever been heard from so far since they were banded.

OLD AGE-RECORDS OF BANDED BIRDS - 8th LIST

Since publishing the previous list of age-records of banded birds, a number of banders have sent in their records. Some Fun! A bander would send in his record to beat data already listed, - the change would be duly made, only to find that on the next day a better record would arrive from someone else.

The total of species listed including those herewith is now 60. Following the previous form, the changes in the records are given first with the standing records they exceed below. F. C. Labahn, Jr. has bettered his former record for Red Headed Woodpecker with a repeat 3 months later of his recorded bird. It has also been learned that Prof. W. R. Green has a record of a Chimney Swift 11 years and 4 months old, but since we haven't the correct banding dates, this record is not published.

CHANGES OF AGE-RECORDS

<u>Species & Place</u>	<u>Bander</u>	<u>Banded</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Age</u>
HAIRY WOODPECKER Blue Island, Ill. Nashville, Tenn.	* A.H. Reeves, Jr.	12/1/35	10/29/39	Same	4yrs. 4mos.
	Mrs. A.R. Laskey	3/5/33	4/25/36	"	3yrs. 10mos.
RED HEADED W'P'KER Blue Island, Ill.	F.C. Labahn, Jr. (Former record by discovery of older repeat)	11/30/33	7/25/38	"	5yrs. 1mo.
STARLING Highland Park, Ill. Blue Island, Ill. Nashville, Tenn.	P.E. Downing	3/6/38	12/20/43	Chicago	6yrs. 6mos.
	A.H. Reeves, Jr.	2/16/26	6/19/41	Killed	6yrs
	Mrs. A.R. Laskey	3/21/39	1/27/44	Same	5yrs. 7mos.
BROWN THRASHER (ad) N. Little Rock, Ark. Lansing, Mich.	Mrs. R. Thomas	4/5/37	8/17/44	"	8yrs. 3mos.
	C.C. Ludwig	5/5/37	5/7/44	"	8yrs.

NEW AGE RECORDS

RED BELLIED W'P'KER Blue Island, Ill.	A.H. Reeves, Jr.	11/9/43	1/15/43	Same	1yr. 7mos.
HOUSE WREN Blue Island, Ill.	Same	8/2/36	7/31/39	"	3yrs. 1mo.
CARDINAL Blue Island, Ill.	Same	1/1/37	1/15/43	"	6yrs. 7mos.
CHIMNEY SWIFT Quincy, Ill.	T.E. Musselman	9/10/33	6/15/44	"	10yrs. 9mos.
ORCHARD ORIOLE (M) N. Little Rock, Ark.	Mrs. R. Thomas	7/11/37**	7/19/42	"	7yrs. 2mos.
ORCHARD ORIOLE (F) N. Little Rock, Ark.	Mrs. R. Thomas	7/13/37***	6/--/42	"	6yrs.

* Now in the armed services.

** Definitely 2 yrs. old when banded.

*** At least 1 yr. old when banded, seen in '43, but not caught.

In glancing over the above records, one is struck by the fact that most are from members of the Inland Association. Come on, Members of Eastern, let us see if we can't beat them.

EBBA
NEWS

Issued Monthly by
Eastern Bird Banding Association
24 Overlook Dr., Huntington, N.Y.



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