

D. Storer 2/19/44

EBBA NEWS



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

REACHING
OVER
375
BANDERS
EVERY MONTH

February, 1944

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

Vol. 7, No. 2

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DID YOU HAVE THESE BANDS?

Dear Banders:

Although longhand copy has been prepared for the next issue of 'Bird Banding Notes', I am not able at this time to say just when it will be issued. Accordingly, it occurs to me that EBBA NEWS might be able to help locate a considerable number of bands that for some reason do not show up in our issue index. Since return records have been received, we are naturally very anxious to locate the station operators to whom they were issued. The lost bands are as follows:

100	bands	size	2	39-247001	to	39-247100
200	"	"	3	40-321701	to	40-321900
10,000	"	"	6	B-677001	to	B-687000

It will be very much appreciated if any bander finding that he has or had any of the numbers in the above groups, notify this office so that our records can be corrected.

F. C. Lincoln, In Charge.
Migratory Bird Investigations
Division of Wildlife Research
Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

January 26, 1944

SOME INTERESTING RECOVERIES

A Song Sparrow banded by Howard Mahken at Brooklyn, N. Y. on November 4, 1942 was found at Garcons, Bonaventure County, Quebec on April 22, 1943. A letter written in French to the young lady who found this bird brought no reply.

An adult F. White-throated Sparrow banded by Dr. Ralph E. DeLury at Ottawa, Ontario on Oct. 14, 1930 was caught by P. N. Hodges at Morris, Alabama, on Jan. 5th, 1931.

An adult Starling, banded by the above bander at the same place on June 5, 1937 was found Dec. 11, 1939 at Obion, Tenn.

A valuable addition to the Association's Scrap Book this month, when our member Raymond T. Fuller, sent us a copy of an illustrating banding article, entitled "Playing Tag With Our Birds" published in "Travel" magazine some time ago. All members who write or run across any article pertaining to our hobby are requested to send a copy to "Ye Ed" so it can be placed on file.

BANDING NOTES FROM THE SOUTH

Chandler S. Robbins of Bowie, Md. reports on January 15th that the White-throat is not at all encouraging at present. "Only 1 or 2 more returns since I last reported." (EBBA News, Dec. '43) (making a total of 11 in all.) "Our Christmas census produced only 11 birds of this species compared to 84 two years ago. No census was taken in '42. Banding is at a low ebb, but Juncos will pass 400 within a few days. Tree Sparrows have not hit 30 yet! Had our 25th Junco return today."

Raymond J. Fleetwood of Round Oak, G. writes that after the Screech Owl episode, (reported in the above issue) White-throats became exceedingly shy and he moved his traps nearer his home and began taking Juncos. However on January 16th he moved his traps back to the original site again and got 4 White-throats right away. Two of those were returns, one banded March 8th and the other on March 11th at the very same spot, last year. On January 20th he got another return also banded March 11th, '43 and on the next day caught a fourth return banded March 12th. He banded 52 White-throats last year and now has a return percentage of almost 8 percent. (These returns are evidence of a group wintering together for 2 seasons in a restricted area.)

Mr. Fleetwood states that among the Juncos he has caught, there were 11 returns. Three of these were banded 4 years ago and 2 of them have returned each winter since banding. "Haven't taken any 'Chippies'". It is not the season for them. They come along in February and March. I hope to make 20 more nesting boxes for Bluebirds soon, then I'll have 100 up for the nesting season. Hope to break all records with Bluebird banding this year hereabouts". EBBA has sent him a gadget to fit inside the boxes which it is hoped will assist in trapping the adults.

REV. STOEHR RE-STARTS

Many members will remember Rev. Edward Stoehr who did such wonderful banding work at Capuchin College, Washington, D. C. about 2 years ago. In the last year or so, EBBA lost track of him as he moved around and it would appear from his letter that the News was never forwarded. This letter, just received outlines his plans and prospects, and is welcome news indeed. It follows:

"Many a bird has gone by me without having a band placed on its leg since last you heard from this follower of birds. My new address means that once more I'm taking up my old hobby of banding after a lapse of nearly 2 years.

"While stationed at Cumberland, Md., for the past 2 years my opportunities for banding were small. Only handled a total of 300. Last July I was transferred here to western Penna., just on the edge of Pittsburgh. A dandy place for bird banding, and so here I go!

"The lawns, shrubbery, the fields, woods and facilities are ideal for banding work. There is a 50 acre or more farm attached to the boys' home we conduct here. Have pheasants galore and never saw so many Cardinals. Have begun a sub-station at the seminary to the north in Butler Co. so will soon have some interesting reports to make.

"When Fr. Fabian and I left Washington, D. C. our battery of some 20 to 30 traps were presented to the government, and are being used daily at their model station located at Bowie, Md. so I am again confronted with the task of building a whole set of traps. Yesterday, my spirit was given a lift when a fellow priest presented me with a whole roll of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. hardware cloth some hundreds of squarefeet, and brand new! I already have 2 or 3 enthusiastic helpers among the boys. This will be my fifth start, but my hopes are high."

OLDEST AGE RECORDS OF BIRDS

Hm--mm; "Tools rush in, where angels fear to tread." It appears as though "Ye Ed" has "stuck his chin out again." Postals are arriving alright, containing some very interesting records, but just how should they be judged? The only fair manner that can be thought of at present is to figure that a bird banded after the nesting season was a bird hatched in that season. This is not very satisfactory for in a species where the youngsters soon don full adult plumage, the bird banded may be a bird of the year or one or two years old. Frankly, "Ye Ed" is changing his opinion of the age of the common garden birds upward. Just look at these records of Downy Woodpeckers:

Place of Banding	Bander	Date	Date & Place of Return	Age
Ottawa, Canada	Dr. R. E. DeLury	12/12/31	5/29/38 - Same	7½ years
Melrose Park, Pa.	Dr. Wm. Pepper	11/30/35	4/19/42 - Same	7 "
Boonton, N. J.	T. Donald Carter	12/15/35	3/29/42 - Same	7 "
Huntington, L. I.	Geoffrey Gill	2/15/36	1/9/43 - Same	7½ "

All these birds were banded as adults and the later three were males. Won't some member send in an 8 or 9 year old Downy and end this problem easily and definitely.

It was thought that this issue could contain a partial list, particularly of the small common birds that would stand up for some time. However, just as soon as one list is made up, other postals arrive making changes. The list will have to appear slowly and very cautiously. Gulls, sea and shore birds, hawks and owls, ducks etc. will await more records except in instances which appear outstanding.

Below are a few records for the members to knock down, but it is doubted whether it will be easy.

Place of Banding	Bander	Date	Date & Place of Return or Recovery	Age
BLUE JAY Madison, Wis.	Dr.H.Bunting	5/14/30	2/16/43 - same	13 yrs.
RED SH'LD HAWK** Demarest, N. J.	B.S. Bowdish	5/18/30	4/--/42 Waldwich, N.J.	12 "
OSPREY** Cape May Court House	C.B. Worth	7/27/33	8/--/42 N.Harlowe, N.C.	9 "
PURPLE GRACKLE Huntington, N. Y.	G. Gill	5/27/35	6/15/43 - same	9 "
CATBIRD Huntington, N. Y.	G. Gill	5/31/33	5/11/41 - same	9 "
BL. C. CHICKADEE Branchport, N. Y.	C.J. Spiker	4/13/35	3/1/42 - same	8 "
SONG SPARROW Cohasset, Mass.	K.C.Harding	4/27/36	4/5/43 - same	8 "
TREE SPARROW Demarest, N. J.	B.S.Bowdish	2/15/33	1/26/41 - same	8½ "
E. SNOW BUNTING McMillan, Mich.	O.M.Bryens	2/22/34	3/4/41 - same	8 "
SL. C. JUNCO Washington, D. C.	Rev.E.Stoehr	11/11/36	1/9/42 - same	6½ "
RED W. BLACKBIRD N. Eastham, Mass.	DR.O.L.Austin	7/26/35	3/25/42 - same	7 "

** BANDED AS YOUNG

Continued on Next Page

OLDEST AGE RECORDS OF BIRDS (Continued)

Place of Banding	Bander	Date	Date & Place of Return or Recovery	Age
ROBIN				
Melrose Park, Pa.	Dr. Wm. Pepper	9/30/34	5/26/42 - same	7 yrs.
BANK SWALLOW				
Fish Creek, N. Y.	Dayton Stoner	5/27/36	5/25/42 - same	8 yrs.
TREE SWALLOW				
Princeton, Mass.	L.B. Chapman	6/8/35	5/24/42 - same	8 "
BREWSTER WARBLER				
Wyanokee, N. J.	T.D. Carter	6/10/22	6/13/27 - same	6 "
HOODED WARBLER				
Wyanokee, N. J.	T.D. Carter	7/4/23	5/30/27 - same	5 "
BLUE W. WARBLER				
Deniarest, N. J.	B.S. Bowdish	5/30/40	5/8/43 - same	4 "
YELLOW PALM WARBLER				
Coral Gables, Fla.	MRS. H.H. Bailey	3/21/40	12/7/42 - same	3 "
MYRTLE WARBLER				
Huntington, N. Y.	G. Gill	10/23/33	2/1/40 - Dunbar, S.C.	6½ "

This list will be continued and will probably be revised as more data arrives. It would appear that if a bird lives to be one year old, its chances of surviving beyond the oft-mentioned 2½ to 3 year average life-span are better than fair.

MORE ON BILL COLORING OF JUNCOS

Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr. of Chevy Chase, Md. sent EBBA a splendid report of his banding in 1943, during which time he banded 529 new birds of 30 species, and considering that he moved his station 2 miles in Sept. '42 this is a fine record. He writes: "The effect of this move was to prevent me from obtaining 1943 returns of many Catbirds, Thrashers, Robins and Thrushes."

Mr. Clattenburg continues, "The recent suggestion regarding color of bills in EBBA NUS finds me without notes. My memory of 11 returns and 1 recovery this fall, runs to the effect that the average of their bills was whiter (or pinker?) on top than the average of other Juncos trapped. I cannot remember that any had darker tops to their bills, but of course some may have had. Before reading the note in question, I had been toying with the idea of associating the white-ness of bills with the oldest males, so I must now confess confusion. I still am inclined to associate browner bills with browner plumages, which is a far less definite plane of thought. Why are the books so vehemently silent on the colors of beaks, eyes and legs, (including toenails) of Birds?" In answer to this last question, we can point to Page 2 of EBBA NUS for August, 1943. The book mentioned therein is the best we have run across, though it still lacks many details. Most bird books were written to sell to "Bird Watchers" and as yet there are not enough bird banders to create a demand for a book of more complete descriptions of species at different ages.

To get back to Mr. Clattenburg's report for '43, it is noticeable that Juncos head his list with 108, followed by Song Sparrow 79; White-throats 53; Catbirds 49; Cardinal 47; Blue Jay 42 and Robins 31 as well as numerous other birds. He reports 16 recoveries most of them nearby in the District of Columbia or Maryland. Of particular interest is the report of a Robin banded on July 24, '41 recovered Dec. 26, '42 at Burgaw, N. C. He comments, "A third of all recoveries since I recommenced banding in '40 have been made in April, with 16 percent in May. Foliage of summer and leaves of autumn must impair discovery of the bodies of small birds at other times."

"YE ED" REGRETS

When reading over a recent issue of the quarterly news-letter of the Western Bird Banding Association, we note that the editor, commenting on a previous error, states that "the Editor nods". Comparing that slight error with your own editor's output in January, "Ye Ed" must have fallen completely asleep. "Ye Ed" is sorry that so many slips occurred in the past issue and can only blame a combination of the holidays and the "flu". An occasional "these" for "this" may be overlooked, but the item headed "A Rose By Any Other Name", goes into a grammatical tail-spin and ends up in a new low. -- Sorry.

The matter which particularly causes us to blush was caused by the mimeograph people not following copy. This error appears in Dr. Wood's plea for more cooperation. Toward the close of the third paragraph, copy read as follows: "The membership lists of the four banding associations, the NEBBA, EBBA, IBBA and WBBA are remarkably close in enrollment; to wit, 140, 175, 189 and 153 members respectively according to the latest reports." In mimeographing this sentence "NEBBA" was omitted. If we can get mixed up with only four alphabetical names, we wonder how workers in Washington get along with all their alphabetical agencies.

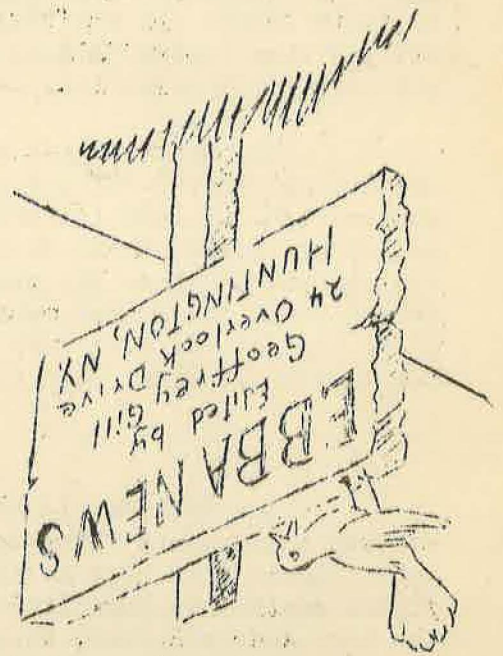
NEWS FOR THE BANDERS

Don Stillman in his Rod & Gun column in the N. Y. Herald Tribune, recently reports that a juv. Blue-wing Teal banded Aug. 8, '43, at Big Grass Marsh in southern Manitoba was shot near Montreal on Sept. 15th. While the bulk of the Blue-wings were flying south this youngster flew 1,500 miles almost due east. A Mallard banded at the Lake Andros Refuge, South Dakota on Jan. 16, '36 was shot Oct. 1, '43 at Waterhen Lake, near Kinistino in western Canada. During 1943, Ducks Unlimited, Canada, banded 9,667 ducks.

Howard Mahnken, for the last several weeks has been trying to catch a pair of Cardinals which are visiting his station in Brooklyn, N. Y. On Jan. 16th he succeeded in banding the female and would have gotten the male too, if neighborhood disturbances hadn't frightened him off. These birds, while no longer rare around the N. Y. City region, are only occasional visitors on western Long Island, usually in the fall or winter. It will be interesting to learn if it is the same bird which appears at this spot in subsequent years. Here's hoping that Mahnken gets the male also. (In 10 yrs., 1929 to 1939, Mrs. Marie V. Beals at her famous station in Flushing, L. I., about 10 miles north and slightly east of Mahnken's station, banded thousands of birds but does not report a Cardinal among them. On the other hand, this species does appear on the mainland to the north in Westchester County quite frequently.)

The recent wave of "flu" certainly didn't respect banders, for many of our members report attacks upsetting their banding. One of these was Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N. J., who with Mrs. Bowdish, his chief banding assistant, suffered a very severe attack. However, as is to be expected of a bander of his reputation, he bounced right back into the work on the 15th of this month and got 8 Juncos and a Tree Sparrow. On the 16th, 2 Juncos another Tree and 5 Myrtles, then the rains came. Purple Finches followed the rain and on Jan. 22nd "Beech" got a trap battery into action, banded 29, a White-throat and 2 Juncos. On the 23rd it rained in the a. m. but he was at it again in the afternoon and banded 4 more Purple Finches, and one each, Titmouse, Junco and Myrtle. He is now looking for 3 Evening Grosbeaks reported in his vicinity and with any sort of luck, "Ye Ed" will wager he gets them. We hope that in his enthusiasm he will "Button up his overcoat, -- and watch this weather. Take good care of himself, -- Remember, he belongs to EBBA.

DR. DAYTON STONER
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
ALBANY, N. Y.



Sec. 562 P. L. & R.