

EBBA NEWS

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

"Let Us Band Together"

Reaching Over 385 Banders Every Month

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THE FIRST YEAR

Many banders will look back at their first years banding record with mingled emotions and possibly excuse a paucity of data by saying that the first year is the hardest. EBBA is vague as to whether it is the first year or the first 100 years that are hard. Each banding year is different and presents its own problems. However, the first year of banding operations at Mrs. Betty Carnes station at Tenafly, N. J. is exceptional. A hasty glance at this annual report might give one the impression that banding wild birds is easy. Only banders will realize the great amount of effort necessary to run up such an impressive total.

From March 15, 1944 to March 15, 1945, Mrs. Carnes has banded 1,614 birds and handled a total of 3,166. Her traps were operated a total of 251 days out of the 365. She planned her work so that she was always present at her trapping station when she thought the birds would be there in the greatest numbers.

Mrs. Marie Beals of Elmhurst, N. Y., speaking from her experience over a long number of years operating a similiar small bird station, told Mrs. Carnes that the months of January and February were usually slow months. During these two months of this year, Mrs. Carnes handled over 1,000 birds of which 427 were new birds to her traps. Tree Sparrows to the number of 239 were banded during this period, although most of them were taken early in February. Only 6 Tree Sparrows were banded in March 1944 and one of these returned this January. This leads one to expect a goodly return of these birds next winter as experience shows these sparrows to be good "returners".

In all 52 species were banded in her garden including 11 species of Warblers and 10 species of Sparrows. Her report lists 28 returns.. These all may be returns, but EBBA takes a hard-boiled view of the matter and feels that some of the returns may be doubtful. True returns to this station include a Cowbird, 2 Robins, a White-throated Sparrow, a Tree Sparrow and the amazing total of 5 Slate-colored Juncos, a species which EBBA considers a poor "returner" in the N. Y. - N. J. area.

Now that the first year is over at the Carnes Banding station it is felt that all members will join with "Ye Ed" in hoping that subsequent years will be every bit as successful and returns and recoveries will flow back to this fine station in proportion to the great number of birds banded.

GEORGE DOCK JR. IS INVENTING A NEW HAWK TRAP

Anyone who has tried to build a hawk trap knows it is a "tough" job. Anyone who knows George Dock realizes that the more difficult the problem, the more determined he is to solve it. He is now perfecting a new sort of clam-shell net trap to take hawks without any injury. Its trials have been very promising. EBBA has a rough sketch and we hope to get more of the details. Incidentally, Mr. Dock re-wrote a 6,000 word article recently for the Encyclopedia Britannica on Falconry with much new additions on trapping.

COMMENTS FROM HERE AND THERE

Ralph E. Wetzel of Boiling Springs, Pa., writes, "A friend of mine brought me two bands taken off the same Purple Grackle, (found dead April 20, 1945) - one band from each leg. I placed one of these bands on the bird's leg on March 21, 1943. The bird never repeated. The second band was number 42-356405. This was not my band. The question arises who placed the second band on this bird?"

Lieut. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., (Pardon, it is now Captain Coffey, Jr.) have left New York and are back home in Tennessee. Still in the Army, of course, but back in Memphis, which is a little relief from the grind. They can be addressed at the "Coffey Grounds", 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis, 7, Tennessee.

As Harold S. Peters of Charleston, S. C. prepares for another 4 month trip in the North, he dashed off a note to EBBA. He states he will have a short story on "Chimney Swifts in Maine" in the July issue of the Maine Audubon Society Bulletin and hopes to publish a complete study of Chimney Swift Migration in the late fall. While in Washington studying banding returns in preparation for this later paper he came across some interesting old-age returns. A Swift almost 13 years old, another almost 12 and 3 more 11 years old.

Raymond J. Fleetwood started banding Bluebirds again on April 15 when he banded 36 including one adult caught with the "gadget" introduced by EBBA through the courtesy of Edwin Mason of Northampton, Mass. about a year ago. He also caught 3 other adults already banded. One pair were mates last year and nested $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from their present box. The other adult was banded as an adult June 7, 1940 in the same box he was again captured in 5 years later. Mr. Fleetwood writes that some Bluebirds are readily caught with the "Gadget" but with some individuals it takes hours. He states he checked a sufficient number of boxes to run up a total of 250 - 300 eggs and wishes he really had the time to devote to this study that it deserves. Other duties occupy a greater part of his time.

In checking bird houses, Mr. Fleetwood came across a pair of Nuthatches with 5 young. This pair were banded as mates in the same box in April, 1942. EBBA hopes to get more data on the history of this particular pair. Mr. Fleetwood also writes, "At last I have enticed some purple Martins to stay with me. I placed 3 gourds on a 45 ft. water tower and these are occupied. Then I put 2 gourds on my 16 room Martin house. The gourds are occupied, but I haven't seen a single Martin enter the box. I thought the gourds might cause them to use the box next year. Anyway a pair of Bluebirds have a family either in the box or in a small gourd attached below. Sometimes you can see a Martin on the crossarm, at others, a Bluebird or two. It appears that the two species get along fairly well."

The April issue of the Beaver County (Pa.) "Educational Bulletin," a periodical for the information of Principals, Teachers, School Directors and Friends of Education, gave its entire Editorial Comment columns over to a letter and article on bird banding by Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa.

The March issue of the "Bulletin to the Schools" of the State of New York, (the Arbor and Bird Day Number) contained many interesting banding articles by such writers as Mrs. Marie V. Beals, Mrs. Dayton Stoner, John J. Elliot and many others. Of particular interest is a tribute to the late Dr. Dayton Stoner, N. Y. State Zoologist, written by Albert R. Shadle of the University of Buffalo.

During the past two years 28 members of EBBA have joined the A.O.U. Our 1945 membership in the Union now totals 105 of 54 percent. (In 1943 the percentage of our members was 43 percent.)

Hal H. Harrison, Pres. of Audubon Society of Western Pa., has an illustrated (kodachromes) article on Cowbirds and their hosts in "The Country Gentlemen" for May.)

BANDERS ON THE FIGHTING FRONTS

Knowing of every bander's interest in fellow members on the fighting fronts of the war, EBBA includes two letters in this issue from former banders. The letter from Private First Class, Brockner was sent to our Secretary, Horace Groskin of Ardmore, Pa. and the other one was received by "Ye Ed." It is felt that both letters are meant for the entire organization. Here they are:

"Dear Mr. Groskin:

Somewhere in Italy
29 March 194V

I recently received the January issue of "EBBA NEWS". From the bottom of my heart I say a sincere thank you to the members of the Eastern Bird Banding Ass'n.

Upon leaving the ranks of the civilian populace and joining up with the army, I lost touch with many things of peace-time luxury and sanity. However, I haven't lost my original love for ornithology and the out-of-doors. Your recent "NEWS" recalled vivid moments of joy in the open and with banding. As the war approached, more and more of my free time disappeared and with it, the little bird-banding I did. Some day, when the world returns to normalcy, one of the projects I am most interested in picking up again, is banding.

I enjoyed the paper more than ever and thank the Ass'n. again, in closing, for sending it here to me in the front-line.

Please excuse pencil. My pen was seriously damaged in combat, and I am having it replaced.

Great success to the Association and an expanding future.

Sincerely yours,

Winston William Brockner, Pfc.

With the Third Army
Germany
24 March, 1945

Dear Editor:

The World is full of surprises .. some grim and some pleasant. This evening I received one of the latter when the APO plopped into my dusty lap a letter from my brother, Bob, in the South Pacific and a copy of February EBBA which contained a letter written by him to Dr. Wood. So thanks to you I relaxed for a few minutes to read two letters from Bob at a time when I figured mail to be out of the question, for as you know we have business in Berlin and are arranging our arrival.

A flash in my mind is an incident which happened yesterday. In this part of Germany, there is a high mountain which commands a view of the "Fatherland" for miles and miles. On top is a concrete lookout tower, built of stone and housing a circular stericase. A dash to the top by jeep netted us two shabby Italian prisoners and captured the tower. I climbed to the top of same, arriving on the observation platform, slightly out of breath and still a bit nervous that the darn thing might blow up under me. First I searched the terrain below for any possible trouble, and after being reassured, I allowed my field glasses to pause on some of the many hawks circling silently below. Before I knew it I was out of the war and back on Hawk Mountain or a certain bluff I love on Long Island. From the air covered slopes below arose a mighty chorus of bird calls and songs, all delightfully unfamiliar and each like the Lorelei, trying to lure me into further investigation.

It was an unforgettable experience, the plunge from the chaos of war to the peace and quiet of that bird paradise mountain.

Dick Fischer wrote to tell me that he has taken out a subscription to EBBA for me. This is a relief to me, for I had planned to do this myself only I was undecided just how you would favor the receipt of 10 Marks. I'll bet you would rather have one meat ball!

Best Regards
J. Grier Ralston, Jr.
2nd Lt. Sig. C.

YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

EBBA continues to grow and it is only natural that the mechanics of mailing our monthly newsletter should suffer from growing pains. Our method of addressing each copy is now a mechanical process. As such, it is impossible for the machine to forget a member's address, but it is true that a machine cannot think. The machine cannot print your new address, if you have failed to notify us of the change. Please send any change of address to EBBA as early as possible. It will help EBBA and you too. At present there is a time lag of 2 months before an incorrectly addressed copy is returned by the post office. This means that 2 other issues have been mailed to the old address in the meantime. If your copy of EBBA NEWS doesn't arrive in a reasonable time, please send a postal at once. EBBA will be glad to send a duplicate copy. However, requests for copies more than six months back must be accompanied by ten cents per copy.

EBBA has a small supply of back numbers always on hand. As the treasury can always use more funds, these are for sale. Prices run from ten to twenty cents each, depending on the age of the copy needed. Very old copies are out of print but can be found.

AGE RECORDS OF BANDED BIRDS - 11th LIST

On the following page EBBA submits another list of age records of banded birds. This increases the total of species listed to 72. With the return of many birds from the south, it is quiet possible that some present standing age records will be beaten. Members are requested to send such records in as soon as possible so that we can correct the listing and arrange for publication of these records in some more formal medium such as BIRD BANDING.

To assist all members, EBBA will publish a total list in one issue in the next month or so. This list, to conserve space, will be issued in a new form. The name of the bird, the oldest known age record and the last name of the bander making this report will be all the date given. If you have an older record than the one listed, please report it at once. If you know of an older record from some publication available to you, then please report it to "Ye Ed", giving the source of the information.

It is interesting to note that many outstanding age records are received yet fail within a few months of beating the "top" record already published. For instance, EBBA now has on file the records of five Downy Woodpeckers all more than 7 years old. It is noted that all these old woodpeckers are males. EBBA still seeks some old "lady" woodpecker records. The records run from Canada all the way south to Virginia, proving that they live as long in the north as they do in the south. It would seem that there is an old "lady" woodpecker record somewhere.

CHANGES IN AGE-RECORDS

<u>Species & Place</u>	<u>Bander</u>	<u>Banded</u>	<u>Return</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Age</u>		
					<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>Mos.</u>	
<u>BALTIMORE ORIOLE</u>							
Fargo, N. Dakota	O.A. Stevens	5/29/37	6/3/43	Same	7	0	
Winterton, N.Y.	R.T. Fuller	6/6/40	6/21/44	Same	5	0	
<u>BLUE W. WARBLER</u>							
Huntington, L.I., N.Y.	G. Gill	5/9/37	6/21/41	Same	5	0	
Demarest, N.J.	B.S. Bowdish	5/30/40	5/8/43	Same	3	11	
<u>BRONZE GRACKLE</u>							
Fort Smith, Ark.	S.H. Weakley	4/21/31	3/12/42	A	11	9	
Indianapolis, Ind.	S.E. Perkins	6/26/25	3/21/32	Same	8	9	
<u>COMMON TERN</u>							
Fern I., Chatham, Mass.	O.L. Austin	7/2/25	6/19/42	Same	18	0	
Barnegat Bay, N.J.	H.P. Baily	7/13/36	6/11/44	Same	8	0	
<u>DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT</u>							
Waubay Lake, S. Dak.	A.R. Lundquist	6/28/29	2/11/43	B	13	8	
Antigonish, N.S.	H.S. Peters	6/8/37	9/20/43	C	6	3	
<u>SNOW BUNTING</u>							
McMillan, Mich.	O. McBryens	2/22/34	2/11/42	Same	8	8	
McMillan, Mich.	O. McBryens	Return 1 year later of same bird.					
<u>FERRING GULL (Im.)</u>							
St. Mary's I. Que.	E.H. Fletcher	7/20/28	4/26/42	D	13	9	
Muskeget I. Mass.	J.A. Gillespie	7/13/32	11/15/40	E	8	4	
<u>MALLARD</u>							
Portage des Sioux, Mo.	J. Brocker	3/3/28	Fall-'40	F	13	3	
Portage des Sioux, Mo.	J. Brocker	3/27/24	11/22/33	G	10	5	
<u>MOURNING DOVE</u>							
North Eastham, Mass.	O.L. Austin	8/21/32	3/27/42	Same	9	9	
Lakewood, Ohio	P.H. Oppmann	6/28/37	6/7/43	Same	7	0	
<u>WHITE T. SPARROW</u>							
Wyncote, Pa.	W. Pepper, Jr.	11/20/33	11/5/41	Same	8	5	
Norristown, Pa.	R.J. Middleton	10/4/30	4/26/37	H	6	10	

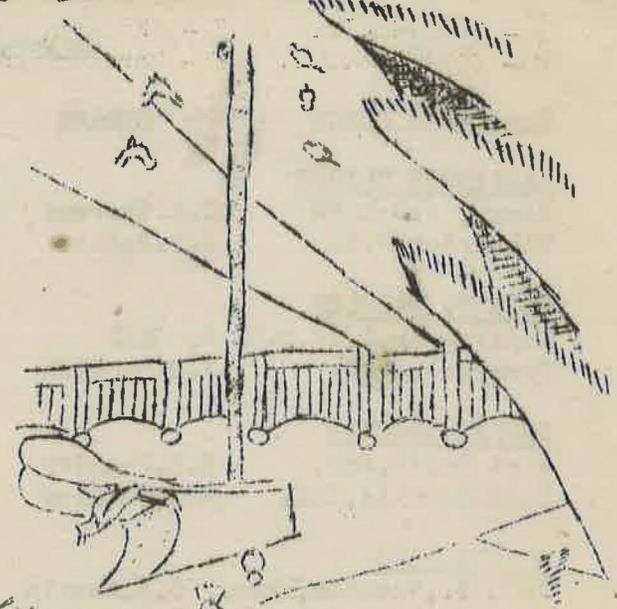
- - - - - NEW AGE-RECORDS - - - - -

<u>BLACK DUCK</u>						
Pennsgrove, N.J.	E.C. Smith	11/13/31	12/4/42	J	11	5
<u>RED-TAIL HAWK</u>						
Fairdale, N. Dak.	F.J. Vejtasa	3/25/34	12/6/42	K	9	6
<u>SOOTY TERN</u>						
Ascension Island, S. Atlantic Ocean	G.F. Simmons	Summer '26	7/7/42	Same	17	1

A - Endora, Ark.	D - McIvers, Nfld.	G - Kaskaskia I., Ill.	K - Center-
B - Ventris, La.	E - Chatman, Mass.	H - Milwaukee, Wis.	ville,
C - Digby Co. N.S.	F - Madison Lake, Minn.	J - Somers Pt., N.J.	Texas

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