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E B B A N E W S

The Eastern Bird-Banding Association News Letter

August 1952

"Let Us Band Together"

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

In the last issue, the Editor requested that members communicate to him their ideas concerning the types of articles and other features which they would like to see in EBBA NEWS. To date, only three such letters have been received, together with a few additional comments appended to communications concerning other matters. Even from this small sample of opinion it is evident that EBBA NEWS is read by persons with a wide variety of differing interests and knowledge concerning banding. Therefore, pending further comments from members, it would seem that a variety of materials should be used so as to give each member at least one item of real appeal to him.

A half dozen or so members have sent in contributions for use in the news, but the back log of material is not sufficiently large at the moment to permit us to add an additional sheet of four pages each month. Please try to send the Editor some material so that he will be able to do this soon. Below, in a letter received by the Editor, you will see topics about which information should prove useful.

In future issues, it is planned to present details concerning the construction and use of various types of traps. If any member has made any modifications in standard trap design which have proved superior to the original, the Editor would appreciate being advised of such changes so that they can be passed on to other members. Of course, many persons who have been banding for a number of years may find such presentations repetitious, but it must be remembered that many new members of the Association do not have access to the plans for many traps such as the Modesto, Fabian, Middleton thrush, Verbail, and others which many of us use regularly.

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ROBIN SYMPOSIUM

It is planned to devote the entire November issue to a symposium on the Robin similar to those recently appearing on the Junco and White-throated Sparrow. The September issue, which should reach you about the tenth of the month, will contain detailed instructions, so meanwhile, why not look over your data on this interesting species?

STATION REPORT

Arthur H. Fast, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Va., reports the following banding results for the year ending April 30, 1952:

Sparrow Hawk	1	Yellow-throat	3
Mourning Dove	25	Purple Grackle	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Cowbird	7
Downy Woodpecker	9	Cardinal	48
Blue Jay	25	Evening Grosbeak	274*
Carolina Chickadee	9	Purple Finch	25
Tufted Titmouse	11	Goldfinch	220**
White-breasted Nuthatch	10	Red-eyed Towhee	35
House Wren	11	Slate-colored Junco	184
Winter Wren	1	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Carolina Wren	3	White-throated Sparrow	251***
Mockingbird	4	Fox Sparrow	3
Catbird	36	Swamp Sparrow	5
Brown Thrasher	15	Song Sparrow	103
Robin	2		
Wood Thrush	4		
Olive-backed Thrush	3	Total species	32
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Total banded	1334

* Before the season's end, the Evening Grosbeak total was 315. Three other banders in the area also banded very substantial numbers of this species. Total of these birds banded in this Virginia area is 689. It is interesting to contrast these totals with the grand total of 52 Evening Grosbeaks banded in the whole of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia prior to the 1951-52 invasion. (See EBBA NEWS, March 1952, p. 3.)

** This total is greater than all the Goldfinches banded by Mr. Fast since he began banding on March 1, 1946.

*** Mr. Fast banded 210 during the 1952 spring migration--140 of them during the first two weeks of May. Previously, he banded no more than 160 during any one season's migration.

BANDING STATION ESTABLISHED AT WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK

Dr. Paul H. Fluck, Lambertville, New Jersey, in a recent letter tells of his success in getting permission from the Park Commission in charge of Washington Crossing Park, three miles south of New Hope, Pennsylvania, to conduct a banding station in the Park. Bands will be issued to the Park, and work will be carried out under the supervision of Dr. Fluck. Your Editor and wife had the pleasure of visiting the site with Dr. Fluck, and they agree that the location is an excellent one.

Dr. Fluck writes, "On May 18th a picnic of bird banders formally dedicated the new banding station. Dr. and Mrs. Harold B. Wood, Jeff, Minnie, and Pat Gill, Howard Drinkwater and family, W. A. Jarvis and family, Mrs. Pauline Buckingham, Mr. Nathaniel Wyckoff, and a number of others were there. The picnic was held on the site of the new banding station to the tune of a quartet of Cerulean Warblers.ten minutes after we set up our first house trap, a Cerulean Warbler flew in. Naturally, the door wasn't working!"

* * * *

AN INVITATION

The following invitation is extended by Mr. E. Alexander Bergstrom, Editor of BIRD-BANDING:

"The fall field meeting of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Alexander Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford, Conn., on Sunday, September 21, starting at 10 a.m. In addition to a backyard banding station with recent plantings for birds, we hope to have an extensive display of banding traps (additional exhibits will be welcome). A number of members of the Eastern Bird-Banding Association attended the last Connecticut field meeting (at Berlin in 1950), and we hope for more this year as the location is easily reached from either Boston or New York over good highways.

"From Boston, take the Wilbur Cross Highway (route 15), turn right on U.S. 44 in Manchester, diagonally left off U.S. 44 in

West Hartford (at the intersection of Mountain Road, with overhead blinker, a mile west of the intersection of U.S. 44 and Route 185) on Old Oak Road, left on Old Brook Road one tenth of a mile later, and go one tenth mile farther.

"From New York, take the Merritt and Wilbur Cross Parkways (Route 15), turn left on Route 173 in Newington, left on Asylum Ave. in West Hartford ("T" intersection), right at first traffic light (on to Route 185), left at next light (on to Route U.S. 44).

"All those interested in banding are welcome."

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Howard Drinkwater, of White House, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, supplies the following human interest story:

"About a week or ten days ago (June 6 to 9), a crew of railroad workmen who were dismantling an unused water spout along the right-of-way a short distance from my office made an interesting discovery. The spout which they were dismantling consisted of a standpipe and a long hollow tube counterbalanced by a hollow iron ball. As the ball was being moved by the crane, it was noticed that it held a nest and four young birds.

"The crane operators very carefully lowered the ball to the ground and then, with the rest of the crew, gathered around it to decide what disposition should be made of the young birds.

"Their first thought was to remove them and bring them to my office. Fortunately, that suggestion was overruled and the birds were left in the nest and I was told about them later that afternoon.

"The following morning I checked the nest and found that they were young Sparrow Hawks and that the parents were caring for them. That afternoon I again visited the nest with my banding equipment and ringed the four nestlings.

"The train crews and the track laborers have been working in the

vicinity of the nest since the spout was dismantled and are taking a great personal interest in the young birds' welfare. Each afternoon I have received a report of their progress and today (June 16) I was told that although the scrap metal is to be removed tomorrow the iron ball will not be disturbed until the young have flown.

"I think that you will agree that an experience such as this adds zest to the banding program."

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CONCERNING CONTENT OF THE NEWS

Mrs. William Gary Irving, Van Houten Fields, West Nyack, N.Y., in a very provocative letter has suggested the following topics as ones which might profitably be discussed in EBBA NEWS. Your comments or contributions relating to these would be very helpful.

- 1) What would be considered a good string of traps for different types of habitat?
- 2) What kinds of baits are especially good for certain species?
- 3) Lists of books, together with price, publisher, etc., and comments about, of topics of value to banders.
- 4) How to keep records efficiently for personal use.
- 5) List of special projects being worked on by various banders who would like data from others working on same project.
- 6) How best to remove bands from smaller birds.

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BRIEFS

The NEWS is sorry to chronicle the death of EBBA member, Miss Anne Bathurst Dobbin, of Baltimore, Maryland, on April 22, 1952.

A new member whom we are happy to welcome into EBBA is

Mr. J. George Hitchner, 58 Konton Avenue, Pitman, New Jersey.

Dr. C. Brooke Worth's address is now as follows:
3, St. Marks Road, Bangalore, Mysore, India

* * * * *

From Bruce Adams, a 15-year old member of EBBA, of 9 Sunset Rd., Darien, Conn., comes the following observation:

"I thought you might be interested in an observation I made recently of a Robin's nest which contained 3 Robin eggs and one Cowbird egg. I first discovered the nest June 20. The Cowbird egg hatched before the Robins, and the baby Cowbird kicked one of the baby Robins out of the nest. But it was interesting to note that after that, the Cowbird did not completely take over and monopolize the nest the way it is in cases of smaller birds such as warblers. The parent birds have fed their own babies just as much as the Cowbird; at times they would completely ignore his cries and feed their own babies. After about a week and a half they left the nest, and for a short time afterwards, I could see them fluttering around after the parents; again, all three birds got equal shares of food."

* * * * *

Mrs. H. G. McEntee writes: "Here's a hint on trapping bait for this time of year--cooked oatmeal with raisins. Blue Jays, Catbirds, Robins, Tanagers, etc., are keen about it for feeding their young. Let them get used to it on the feeding shelf for a couple of days, then put some in a container into the traps. I usually save the tops of ice cream cartons for this purpose because they are a good size for small traps and their light color helps to attract the birds. Also, when they get messy, they can be thrown away."--490 Fairfield Avenue, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

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IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS

Changes of address should reach the Editor by the 25th of the month to be effective with the next issue. If only temporary, arrange with your local Post Office to have your copy forwarded to you.

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