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E B B A N E W S

Eastern Bird-Banding Association News Letter

FEBRUARY 1952

Published Monthly by

THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

The 1951 annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27, 1952 at the Johnson House at Central Station, New York City. Dr. Frank Taylor has been appointed Chairman of the Local Committee and Dr. Robert Van Dusen is assisting Dr. Taylor as Vice-Chairman. Members wishing to have their reservations for Saturday night, March 27, should write to Mr. Frank Taylor, 100 West 114th Street, New York 25, New York. The number of people who will enjoy the meeting is limited to 100. Tickets are \$2.00. Please contact Dr. Taylor at the above address for further information. If you are planning to attend the meeting, and you need travel advice, please also contact Dr. Taylor.



issue of Ebba News as follows:

"I wonder if there is any possible truth in my own pet theory that the deaths are caused by internal hemorrhage, possibly cerebral in some cases, which may have resulted from excitement or exertion on the part of the bird. I have experienced a few instances of 'shock deaths' and several instances of temporary loss of flight have come to my attention also, which may very well have resulted from the same cause.

"Outstanding among the latter are our two male Evening Grosbeaks, Hoppy and Hoppy-Two, which recovered completely, after 19 and 20 days respectively to fly away, later on to repeat without recurrence of the abnormality.

"I like to theorize the possibility of a slight cerebral hemorrhage affecting the brain center of wing-muscles control which mends with the later absorption of the lost fluid.

"The condition which set me onto this line of thinking is the fact that every bird we have observed with this abnormal condition has shown evidence of breathing difficulty as if a fluid had entered the upper respiratory tract. This fluid when seen at the bird's mouth, is tinged with red as if by blood. Every slightest exertion on the part of the bird causes serious panting. The rapid respiration is accompanied by a sound which is neither exactly a gurgle or a rattle, but is as if the air were passing in and out of the throat through an obstruction of frothy, mucous-like consistency. This sound becomes less and less persistent as the time approaches when the bird is again able to fly.

"Our most recent experience with this condition started on December 30 when an olivaceous Purple Finch was unable to fly away when released after having been banded. This bird showed every characteristic already discussed. It ate normally while caged and yesterday, January 19, it was released to fly normally away.

"It may or may not be merely an interesting coincidence that this bird, like the two Evening Grosbeaks, required a recuperative period of 20 days."

CONTINUATION - TRAP RECORD  
1-13-49 to 7-31-51  
Frank P. Frazier  
Montclair, N. J.

Type Trap	Maze		Drop Door		Trip Step		Top Opening		House		Misc.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Blue Jay	29	11.6	53	21.2	114	45.6	35	14.0	8	3.2	11	4.4	250	100
Starling	21	20.4	40	38.8	29	28.0	7	6.8	2	2.0	4	4.0	103	100
Cowbird	6	13.6	16	36.3	13	29.5	1	2.3	7	16.0	1	2.3	44	100
Purple Finch	14	18.7	19	25.3	38	50.7	-	-	3	4.0	1	1.3	75	100
Wh-throat Sparrow	136	48.6	39	13.9	73	26.1	4	1.4	28	10.0	-	-	280	100
Chipping Sparrow	9	37.5	3	12.5	3	12.5	-	-	9	37.5	-	-	24	100
Junco	320	27.0	453	38.1	251	21.1	12	1.0	149	12.5	3	.3	1188	100
Song Sparrow	146	40.0	60	16.4	101	27.6	11	3.0	48	13.0	-	-	366	100
Fox Sp.	14	36.0	6	15.4	14	36.0	1	2.5	4	10.1	-	-	39	100
Towhee	102	41.3	30	12.1	91	36.9	3	1.2	17	6.9	4	1.6	247	100
Cardinal	2	8.0	8	32.0	11	44.0	2	8.0	2	8.0	-	-	25	100
Misc. Warblers	16	45.7	1	2.9	3	8.5	2	5.7	12	34.3	1	2.9	35	100
Catbird	37	18.3	19	9.4	102	50.5	31	15.4	13	6.4	-	-	202	100
Brown Thrashers	23	21.7	24	22.7	47	44.3	6	5.7	3	2.8	3	2.8	106	100
Nuthatch	1	2.5	5	12.5	14	35.0	-	-	-	-	20	50.0	40	100
Chickadee	5	6.7	10	13.3	33	44.0	25	33.3	-	-	2	2.7	75	100
Wd. Thrush	16	30.2	9	17.0	26	49.0	1	1.9	1	1.9	-	-	53	100
Hermit Thrush	12	20.7	4	6.9	38	65.5	4	6.9	-	-	-	-	58	100
Robin	13	10.3	40	31.7	39	31.0	4	3.2	22	17.4	8	6.4	126	100
Misc.	<u>25</u>	<u>18.2</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10.2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5.1</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>49.7</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>100</u>
Totals	947	27.3	851	24.5	1054	30.3	156	4.5	339	9.8	126	3.6	3473	100

A QUESTION FOR EBBA READERS

Mrs. Howard G. McEntee, 490 Fairfield Ave., Ridgewood, N. J. asks the following question:

"Do all banders of Tree Sparrows find that the greatest number of unbanded birds appear at their stations after the first of February, or do those in more northerly, or westerly locations band their greatest number in the early winter months?"

"I would like some information on the migration of the Tree Sparrow and quite possibly the banders can supply it. This is my fourth winter for banding and each year at least three-quarters of newly banded birds have been done in the late winter.

"Oddly enough, however, about nine-tenths of my returns appear before February, many in December. Up through the 20th of January this year I had 16 returns and had banded only 16 new ones. An interesting observation on my Tree Sparrow returns is that I continue to get back greater numbers of the birds banded in the '48/'49 winter than those banded in later years. That first winter of banding at this location netted me 105; in '49/'50 season 25 of the original 105 returned; in '50/'51 - 17 of the 105 came back; and in '51/'52 so far 9 have returned. At the end of this banding year I intend to get all these figures together in chart form as I think it might prove to be quite interesting for others who band Tree Sparrows in fairly good numbers.

"In the meantime, where are these birds in December and January?"

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. M. Brantley Peacock, Route 2, Fairfax, Virginia, tells us of some of the highlights of her banding experiences:

"A White-throated Sparrow banded here in Fairfax, Va., May 13, 1950 was recovered on October 8, 1951 at 6:00 A.M. when it hit the rigging of a ship 1/4 mile southwest of Bloodsworth Island, Md. while crossing the Chesapeake Bay. The bird was flying against

strong wind. Am I right to assume that I am on the path of a more or less east-west migration route of the White-throat?"

"September 26, 1951 was a red-letter day for me. I banded a Philadelphia Vireo, Lincoln Sparrow and a Nashville Warbler. I took them to the D. C. Audubon Society meeting where their identifications were checked by none other than Mr. Roger Levy Peterson.

"I haven't had enough experience to decide about the value of traps, except that I have had no success with the top-opening Warbler traps. My Dove trap worked fine in the spring for ground birds (not Doves) but almost nothing this fall. Robins continue to elude me."

\* \* \* \* \*

A note from one of our members, Mrs. Agnes Romig, who has recently moved to Pacific Palisades, California, from Manhasset, Long Island, reads as follows:

"Our new home is on Porturo Canyon and bird life is abundant. From our living room we view the Pacific Ocean and Sierra Madres.

"The birds must all nest in the Canyon for we see no nests in yards or parking trees. A great variety of small birds come into our enclosed patio daily to feed. Humming Birds, Warblers, and Brown Towhees are there at all times. They do not seem to notice our presence.

"I find that I will have to study up on many new varieties and also on slight color variations on the ones we were familiar with on Long Island."

\* \* \* \* \*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to an extended business trip by your Editor this issue will be late when it reaches you. We hope you understand.

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