

is illustrated by the fact that the 180 authors of papers or notes, from inception (1954) to early 1961, came from no less than 54 countries. Each issue includes a list of recent publications on banding, and a few reviews. *The Ring* appears quarterly, photo-offset, generally with 200 to 300 pages a year.

Copies of the index to *Bird-Banding* for 1941-50 may be obtained from Mrs. J. R. Downs, So. Londonderry, Vt., at \$3.00 (paperbound) or \$4.50 (hard covers) to present NEBBA members or *Bird-Banding* subscribers; or \$4.00 (paperbound) or \$5.50 (hard covers) to others. All prices include postage.

The October issue commented on the difficulty of keeping up with mist net orders in rush periods. Unfortunately, we have been unable to keep up with orders for type A nets from the second week in August on, and probably will not be caught up until mid-November. While we have made heavy shipments during this period, many purchasers have had to wait weeks for their nets. We very much regret these delays, but cannot guarantee immediate shipment at all times. Nets ordered during the winter months may save you from being out of action during good netting periods of the spring migration. For details on the five types of mist nets handled by NEBBA, write to Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 17, Conn.

From Dr. Charles Sibley at Cornell, we have a letter from a young German field ornithologist interested in corresponding with others working in his particular fields: Mr. Rudolph Siebert, Georg Schwarz Str. 38 I(re), Leipzig W33, German Democratic Republic (DDR). Now 30 years old, he has been interested in field ornithology for 12 years, and has banded (for the Vogelwarte Radolfzell) since 1959. One of his particular fields is water birds: Podicipidae, esp. the Little Grebe (*P. ruficollis*) and the Red-necked Grebe (*P. griseigena*); Anatidae, Rallidae, Ardeidae—and the influence of civilization on the populations of these birds. His banding of small birds (esp. the Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)) involves traps, Japanese mist nets, and 300 nest-cages.

The Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard has reprinted Volume III of the late J. L. Peters' "Check-list of Birds of the World." This volume, long out of print, lists the Columbidae and Psittacidae, and related families. It is available from the Museum for \$10.00. The only other volumes now in print are V (\$7.00), VII (\$6.00), and IX (\$7.50), but if sufficient interest is indicated, the Museum hopes to reprint additional volumes. Work is in progress on the remaining volumes: XV (in press), X, XII, XIV, XIII, XI, and VIII (to appear in that order).

The University of Massachusetts has received a gift of several thousand eggs collected by the late Frank M. Phelps of Elyria, Ohio, presented by Mrs. Phelps, to be known as the Frank M. Phelps Memorial Egg Collection. It is anticipated by Dr. L. M. Bartlett that this will form the nucleus of a growing collection; and other such gifts will be appreciated.

### MIST NET DUTIES

At present, mist nets imported into the United States from Japan are subject to customs duties. Representative W. B. Widnall of New Jersey has been endeavoring to obtain legislation to end these duties, at the urging of Mrs. John Y. Dater (president of EBBA), and others. While complete success has not yet been achieved, the House Ways and Means Committee reported the bill favorably on September 21, 1961, including the following comments:

"H.R. 6682, as amended by your committee, would transfer from the dutiable to the free list of the Tariff Act of 1930 articles which are known as fowling nets. Fowling nets are used by organizations and persons engaged in banding of birds. The nets are used to temporarily capture birds and are designed to facilitate quick banding and release of the birds. Birdbanding activities, which are carried out primarily under the coordination and sponsorship of the U. S.

Department of the Interior, assist interested parties in learning more about bird distribution, population, and migration and their determinants. For example, banding of blackbirds, which in some areas are exceedingly detrimental to cereal crops, has resulted in establishing the area from which the harmful birds originate, which in turn makes it now possible to apply control measures without indiscriminate destruction of blackbirds.

"Birdbanding activities are primarily carried on by volunteer workers who receive no pay for their activities. The records obtained as a result of these activities are turned over to the U. S. government and are used in research. The Government supplies the birdbands and the record forms. Each volunteer bander supplies his own traps or nets, bait, and other equipment necessary for him to perform the banding function.

"The Department of Commerce advised your committee that to the best of its knowledge fowling nets are not produced in the United States. Your committee received favorable reports on H.R. 6682 from the Departments of State, Treasury, Interior, and Commerce.

"In these circumstances, your committee believes that there is no reason why the United States should levy a duty on these articles which are so vitally needed in this worthwhile work and which are apparently not produced in the United States."

The bill would add to the list of articles exempt from duty, the following (as a new paragraph 1725 (b) under Section 201):

"Nets or sections or parts of nets, finished or unfinished, of whatever material or materials composed, for use in taking wild birds, under license issued by an appropriate Federal or State governmental authority."

The bill did not pass during the first session of the 87th Congress, but will be before the House in the second session, without the need for further action by the Ways and Means Committee. While active opposition may not exist, we still have the problem of getting final action in a busy session. It would help appreciably if you would write to the Representative from your district, asking that he vote for the bill, and that he let Mr. Widnall know of his willingness to do so. Since Senate action will also be necessary, it would also help if you were to write to your Senator.

Copies of the committee report are available, without charge, from Dr. W. H. Drury, Jr., Drumlin Farm, So. Lincoln, Mass. We suggest that you enclose one with your letter to your Representative or Senator, to explain just what is involved.