

Ebba News

EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

REMEMBER
ANNUAL MEETING
BALTIMORE MD.
MARCH 31 1951

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Published Monthly by

THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

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"Let Us Band Together"

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No. 3

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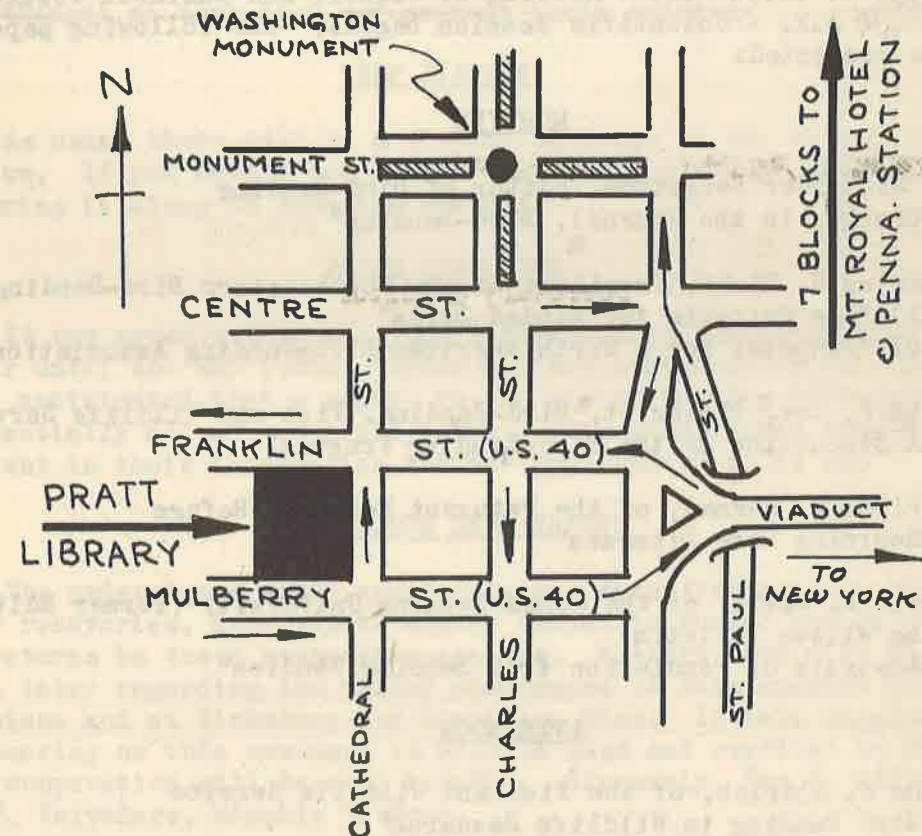
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ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN:

Business and Scientific Sessions on Saturday, March 31, 1951. See the program in this issue. Field trip to Banding Headquarters at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge of the Fish and Wildlife Refuge at Laurel, Maryland on Sunday, April 1, 1951. Transportation will be furnished by the Local Committee on Arrangements, of which Mr. Orville Crowder is Chairman. Details will be announced at Saturday's meeting.

WHERE:



SCENE OF 1951 EBBA MEETING IN BALTIMORE

Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Pratt Library Building, Cathedral Street between Franklin & Mulberry. Franklin & Mulberry Streets are one-way arms of U. S. Route 40. Headquarters will be at the Mount Royal Hotel, Calvert Street & Mt. Royal Avenue, where the Saturday dinner will be held. The Pennsylvania R.R. Station is close to the hotel. Sunday's trip to Patuxent Research Refuge will start from the Mt. Royal Hotel at 7.30 a.m.

ACCOMODATIONS:

For hotel reservations write to Mr. Orville Crowder, Chase, Maryland, specifying the number and type of rooms desired. Headquarters will be at the Mount Royal Hotel, Calvert Street and Mount Royal Avenue.

DINNER:

Plans for the dinner will be announced at the business and scientific sessions.

PROGRAM:

9.30 to 10.30 A.M. - Meeting of Council and Business Session
10.30 A.M. - Scientific Session begins. The following papers will be presented:

MORNING

- Mr. E. Alexander Bergstrom, Editor of Bird-Banding
"Changes in the Journal, Bird-Banding"
- Dr. Charles H. Blake, President of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Assn.
(1) "Age Criteria for Banded Birds"
(2) "Proposal for a North American Bird-Banding Association"
- Mr. Seth H. Low, Biologist, Bird-Banding, Fish and Wildlife Service
"A Discussion of the Bird-Banding Program"
- Dr. Carlton M. Herman, of the Patuxent Research Refuge
"Mourning Dove Diseases"
- Dr. David E. Davis, of the Johns Hopkins University (former Editor of the Wilson Bulletin)
"Analysis of Population from Banding Studies"

AFTERNOON

- Dr. John W. Aldrich, of the Fish and Wildlife Service
"Bird Banding in Wildlife Research"
- Mr. Horace Groskin, President of the Eastern Bird-Banding Association
"A Plumage Study of Banded Goldfinches"
- Mr. Raymond J. Middleton
"Thirty Years of Banding at Norristown"
- Mr. Arthur H. Fast
"Carrying the Banding Message to the Grassroots"

Mr. Richard O. Bender, Secretary of the Eastern Bird-Banding Association and Editor of Ebba News
"Species Symposia"

A PROPOSAL FOR A NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

During the meeting of the council Mr. Blake, President of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association will present a proposal for the formation of a national bird banding organization. This proposal will not eliminate the regional associations. According to our by-laws such a matter must be passed upon by the council but your Editor is sure that members of the council will appreciate opinions from the membership which will assist them in their consideration of the proposal. Accordingly, it is suggested that the members give this matter some thought so that they may express their opinions.

TRAP DISPLAY

As usual there will be a display of traps at the Scientific Session. If you have a new design trap or improvement on an old one bring it along to show the members.

JUNCO SYMPOSIUM

It now appears that the long delayed Junco Symposium will not appear until the May issue. Space was not available in this issue and it is anticipated that a report on the annual meeting will make up substantially all of the April issue. This gives those that have not yet sent in their information another opportunity to do so.

GROUND DOVE DATA WANTED

The undersigned would appreciate any data from members giving their recoveries, approximate number banded in summer and in winter and returns in these respective seasons. A short note will be prepared later regarding the winter occurrence of this species in North Louisiana and at Vicksburg and Rosedale, Miss. If data supplied has any bearing on this movement it will be used and credited to the bander. Your cooperation will be most helpful. Sincerely, Ben B. Coffey, Jr. - 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.

THANKS

EBBA News wishes to thank the following members for contributions:

F. P. Frazier
H. Groskin
H. B. Wood

and the following members for taking out sustaining memberships:

E. A. Bergstrom
H. W. Bushwitz
Mrs. M. Dumont
J. R. Ellwood
S. C. Fordham
W. H. Fries

H. Groskin
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H. B. Wood

A WANDERING CATBIRD

Mr. Vernon C. Rossman of Coatesville, Pa. sends in the following record:

"On May 14, 1948 I banded an adult Catbird at Coatesville, Pa. and on July 6, 1949 it was trapped and released by William Pepper, Philadelphia. The story ends on May 6, 1950 when a cat caught and killed the bird on Smiths Island in Maryland. This is at the extreme southern tip of Chesapeake Bay."

WHO BANDED THIS BIRD

A sparrow-sized bird with an orange-colored band with No. 74-47NEB and an aluminum band (number lost) was picked up at North Park, Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh) on August 10, 1949 by Mrs. H. S. Johnson. The bird may have been an escaped cage-bird.

BANDING NESTLINGS

Dr. Paul H. Fluck of Lambertville, N. J. on perusing the published summary of banding activities for last year was moved to comment on the small numbers of very common species which had been banded. He mentioned Red-eyed Vireos, Marsh Wrens, Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows as examples, and suggested that it would be relatively easy to band these species as nestlings.

Dr. Fluck's letter was sent to Mr. Seth Low of the Bird Banding office for comment. It is thought that Mr. Low's reactions would be of interest to all our members so they are quoted below:

"Our purposes in publishing the totals of each species is certainly to stimulate more interest in the species which need more attention. The purpose of banding, however, is too frequently lost sight of. It is to get results; not to band as many species and individuals as possible. By results is meant returns, especially retraps in subsequent years.

"The taboo on banding nestlings is reasonable and justified, but it is not a hard and fast rule with no exceptions. There is no question

but nest hunting and banding fledglings are conducive to higher mortality. Also such banding has generally proved exceedingly unproductive. The notable exceptions are, of course, the hawks and owls and species which nest in bird houses. There is considerable doubt as to how much longer the wholesale banding of young gulls and terns can be justified when not simultaneously accompanied over a reasonable period of years by thorough trapping of adults.

"The criteria for judging any fledgling banding is the probability of retaking the same individuals as adults. The probability is zero for the types of banding suggested by Dr. Fluck. If the bird population of a given tract is to be intensively and thoroughly studied for a number of years, then it is in order to band as many fledglings as possible. It is also justified by a special study of a particular species. Both would, of course, involve thorough adult trapping.

"What is the criteria for the ordinary backyard bander? Nestlings of species such as Red-eyed Vireo, Robin, Catbird, etc. may be banded if due care and discretion are used in the immediate vicinity of the station. There is a reasonable chance of retaking one of these individuals subsequently at a regularly operated station. There is no such probability in banding fledglings away from a regularly operated station.

"Productive banding of Red-eyed Vireos, Marsh Wrens, Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows and many other species is needed but the first step is not banding fledglings but developing techniques for taking the adults."

Dr. Fluck also suggested that subsequent published summaries include the total numbers of returns and recoveries for each species. Mr. Low advises that it may be possible to indicate the total number of form 3-137 cards on file for each species if and when all the cards are processed and filed up to date. No yearly tallies have been kept in the past and it is not anticipated that they will be in the near future. The two reasons that make it unfeasible are lack of clerical help and inadequate cooperation on the part of the banders. As too many banders do not get their schedules in on time, there is no reason to suppose the response would be any better with respect to return cards. The banding year ended April 30, 1950 and the banders had 60 days (two months) in which to send in their schedules. Since the deadline, schedules have come in so far for 36,292 bandings or 10% of the grand total.

Let's all resolve to do a better job of keeping and reporting records. Mr. Low's comment about devising methods to trap adults of some of these species should serve as a challenge to all of us to use our ingenuity and work out some practical methods.

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