

A second purpose of the News is to promote cooperative activities of the membership. Local meetings, studies involving several banding stations, and compilation, study, and publication of data from many stations are such activities which have received notice in past issues of the News. Members who have projects of this kind in mind will receive all of the cooperation your Editor can provide.

As a recent friendly argument in and out of the News has shown, the EBBA is composed of people who band birds for several diverse reasons. Some are motivated by the collector's urge to accumulate data; others enjoy handling these wild, elusive, and beautiful creatures; still others are seeking a solution to some scientific problem. It is my hope that the News can be interesting, stimulating, and useful to all of our members regardless of the reasons why they are banders.

What happened to the Song Sparrow on the cover? It seems that in the confusion surrounding the change in Editors and printers the cut was misplaced. Perhaps it will turn up again later.

A "new" Common Tern colony located on Democrat Point which forms the south side of Fire Island Inlet is reported by Mr. Oakleigh Thorne, II. He estimated that 1000 pair of Common Terns and several hundred Herring Gulls were nesting there with a few Black Skimmers. About a mile to the east there was a small colony of Least Terns. He was able to band 200 Common Terns, 4 Black Skimmers, 2 Herring Gulls, and 5 Least Terns, all as young birds. A banded, adult, Common Tern was found dead. It had been banded by EBBA member Leroy Wilcox on July 4, 1945 at Inlet Island, Moriches Bay, Long Island, which is about 30 miles east of Democrat Point.

Frank Frazier of Montclair, New Jersey, has had notable success with barberry berries as a bait for Hermit Thrushes. He and Mrs. Frazier caught twelve in one week, mostly in a one-cell top-opening trap placed on a stump about two feet high under a three-foot bird bath. A large bush five feet away provided cover and a dead branch stuck in the ground right beside the bath served as a perch.

W. N. Davidson of 1504 Bodell Street, Orlando, Florida, is starting a project on wintering Towhees, based on the color of the iris which is, of course, a subspecific character for this species. His breeding birds are white-eyed. Are there any others banding in the area where both subspecies may winter who would care to join him in what could be a very interesting study? He also asks for advice on a good bait for Savannah Sparrows, having tried millet seed with only moderate success. Can anyone help him with this problem?

Mr. E. Alexander Bergstrom, 233 Ridge Road, West Hartford 7, Connecticut, and his wife, who is also an ardent bander, are trying to line up more banders, particularly in a twenty-mile circle around Hartford. Their objective is the accumulation of more data on the local movements of birds. Such a study promises to provide a great deal of information in a field where there is a paucity of good data. It is a practical activity wherever there is a relatively heavy concentration of active stations to serve as a nucleus. Are there other areas where the same activity can be undertaken? EBBA plans to keep the members informed of the progress made and of the methods being used.

Mrs. B. M. Shaub sent in a very humorous newspaper clipping, much too long to reproduce in full, which describes the capture of an immature Red-Tailed Hawk. This youngster dropped into a garbage can to feed on odds and ends of chicken and was so successful that it couldn't get out again. It now wears band #36-705732 with an official record which, according to the paper reads: "Caught stealing garbage from Toto's by Bill Lancto. Released unharmed in custody of a passing group of migrating hawks on their way South." The newspaper was the Daily Hampshire Gazette of Northampton, Massachusetts.

EBBA News regrets to advise of the death of the following members:

Mr. E. A. McIhenny, Avery Island, Louisiana
Mr. Harold Michener, 418 N. Hudson Avenue,
Pasadena 4, California

Visitors to the A.O.U. at Buffalo may have noticed a banded Golden-eye Duck on display at the Buffalo Museum of Science. A card near by directs that bands should be removed from any dead birds and sent to the Museum which will forward them to the interested scientists. It also states that the finder will be notified where the bird was banded, when, and by whom. A collection of different sizes of bands was also shown. Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who wrote about this display, comments that it is excellent publicity.

Another A.O.U. note of interest is that the common names of birds which are definitely identifiable should now be capitalized in accordance with a decision of the Council at the Buffalo meeting. It was suggested that other animals should not be considered in the same light by ornithologists but this should be left to other scientific societies to decide.

It's not too early to begin working on that paper which you plan to present at the annual meeting next April. Send the title and an estimate of the time required to the Secretary while you are thinking about it.

This issue has been reproduced by the multilith process. It cost EBBA \$42.50 plus or minus a few cents, including postage. Unless our membership increases, or the number of sustaining members increases, or some supplemental sources of income such as ads can be developed, EBBA cannot afford to pay quite so much over a year. But the next issue at least will be printed in the same way. This process, which is cheaper than printing, also has the advantage of making possible the reproduction of drawings such as trap designs, etc.

Former Editor R. T. Fuller trapped a foreign Slate-colored Junco on November 11, 1949. It carried band Number 44-7800. Whose bird was this?

Jeff Gill writes to correct an impression that the EBBA receives one-half of the gross sales value of the traps which he makes and sells. It's one-fourth. He says that he just barely recovers the cost of materials on this basis but adds that he is not complaining, as he enjoys the work and is buoyed by the thought that in this way he assists in getting more birds banded. So far in 1949 EBBA has received \$36.50 from Jeff's efforts.

A note from C. L. Broley tells us that he has banded 1111 Bald Eagles as of last September 20--1050 in Florida and 61 near Delta in Ontario. He has had 90 recoveries from the first 1000 birds which, to quote him, is "far too many for a fine protected bird". His most northerly recovery of a Florida bird was from 200 miles north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and he had another from near James Bay in northern Ontario. Of the 90 recoveries, 16 were from Canada. These studies have demonstrated the existence of a post-breeding northward migration which was entirely unsuspected before Mr. Broley began his Florida banding work.

Your Editor has been interested for some time in the accumulation of records of bird weights. Such records might in time throw some light on geographical variations in size among birds. Should any of the members care to send in their weight records, they would be greatly appreciated.

EBBA News wishes to welcome the following new members:

Mr. Burdette G. Dewell, III, 8 Capital Avenue,
Delmar, New York
Dr. B. S. Fuhrman, 5 Main Street, Flemington, N. J.
Mr. John C. Malinowski, 323 N. College Parkway,
Frederick, Maryland
Mr. Rudolph H. Stone, 505 Bedford Road,
Schenectady, New York
M.Sgt. H. W. Bushwitz, SMS-33, MAG-33, El Toro,
Santa Ana, California

Your Editor wishes to apologize to the other officers of the Association for omitting their names from the first page. But to be honest--the space was needed for news.

An anonymous contributor from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, reports that the Snowy Owls are here again with one having been "scored" from there during the first week in December. He--it must have been Dr. Wood--asks that all members report reliable records to Dr. Alfred O. Gross, 11 Boody Street, Brunswick, Maine. Mr. Merrill Wood writes that two Snowy Owls were shot at State College, Pennsylvania, on December 8, 1949. One was only slightly injured in one wing and was given to him alive. He has it in a large cage outside his back door and hopes to release it in good health soon--banded, of course.

Mr. Leroy Wilcox of Speonk, Long Island, writes that he recently visited the Bird-Banding Office at Laurel, Md. for the purpose of checking their records for the Osprey and Piping Plover. After 48 hours of study he found that a total of 2757 Osprey have been banded since Howard Cleaves ringed the first one on June 13, 1911 at Gardiner's Island. The first Osprey return came in 1926 on a bird banded in that year by John Gillespie. The first Piping Plover was also banded by Mr. Cleaves in 1911, and the first return, curiously enough, also came in 1926. A total of 1906 of these birds have been banded, of which Mr. Wilcox has accounted for 1186, or slightly more than one-half.

He found all schedules to be filed according to A.O.U. number and stresses the importance of placing these numbers on the top of each schedule. The fact that all totals were shown on the top of the schedules caused him a great deal of extra work since he had to actually count the band numbers to obtain the correct total. The Office's original total for the Osprey was 2555, for example, which gives us an idea of how many schedules with incorrect totals there must have been.

The first shore bird return was from a Spotted Sandpiper banded on July 10, 1910 at Lake Champlain, New York, and shot September 5, 1910 in Massachusetts. He has 225 returns on Piping Plover, 169 on the Least Sandpiper, and one of the two recorded for Knot in the U.S.

Mr. Wilcox was particularly pleased with the cooperation and assistance which he received from the Office personnel. Mr. Low said that he hoped that other banders would visit them. Sounds like a good idea.