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REPORT OF EBBA COMMITTEE ON PROPOSAL FOR A NORTH AMERICAN
BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

For the Eastern Bird Banding Association, President Horace Groskin, on June 28, 1951, appointed a Committee, consisting of Geoffrey Gill and Beecher S. Bowdish, to study the proposal for a nation-wide bird banding organization and report thereon.

As the essential matters involved, the Committee has considered first; the need for such an organization and second; the feasibility of creating it as something which would successfully function for the achievement of its objectives.

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A letter of inquiry relative to some of the questions pertaining to a North American organization was addressed to Dr. Charles H. Blake, President of the North-Eastern Bird Banding Association, one of the principal proponents of the proposal. Dr. Blake's answer intimates that some of the principal considerations are: that while the normal income of a national organization would, of course, be inadequate to enable it to take over the present functions of the Fish and Wildlife Service in the supervision of bird banding, such a national organization would be in a better position to solicit funds from "some foundation" than would a regional organization; also that an increased subscription to BIRD-BANDING should be anticipated with the forming of a national banding organization.

Dr. Blake's conception of such an organization was stated as a federation of existing and possible additional future regional organizations. His letter did not rule out the possibility of abandonment of non-game bird banding supervision by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which has been the subject of a rumor of unknown origin that has circulated in connection with the proposal for a North American banding organization.

In connection with the above mentioned rumor, a letter of inquiry on behalf of the Committee was addressed to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The reply, written by Dr. John W. Aldrich, Chief of the Section of Distribution and Migration of Birds, Branch of Wildlife Research, should serve to dispose of the rumor permanently. That part of Dr. Aldrich's letter referring to the rumor reads as follows: "I am surprised at the current rumor that Fish and Wildlife Service contemplates discontinuing supervision of banding other than game birds. We learned of such a rumor about a year ago through Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice and Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, and thought that we had adequately stated the facts at that time which would squelch the rumor. As far as I can learn, the subject of abandonment of banding of other than game birds by the Fish and Wildlife Service has not even been discussed by persons with authority in the Service. I am certain that no such action is being contemplated at the present time and I doubt very much if it will ever come to pass unless there is complete collapse in the Wildlife Research budget."

"I hope that you will take pains to pass on this information to those who are concerned about the future of banding, and trust that it will put an end to the rumor that is going around."

Of the proposal for a North American banding organization, Dr. Aldrich says: "I am glad to hear that this proposal is still alive since I believe it has considerable merit."

In view of the time that has elapsed since the appointing of this Committee, it is our feeling that further time spent in search of additional facts bearing on the subject is not likely to produce material justifying thus delaying our report.

The Committee suggests that this report or a condensation thereof be printed in EBBA NEWS together with an invitation to all members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association to participate in a ballot by postcard as to what shall be the attitude of our Association in regard to the proposed North American banding organization.

Respectfully submitted,
S/ Geoffrey Gill
S/ Beecher S. Bowdish

Write to the Committee or to President Groskin with your ideas.

MORE ON TRAPS

Beecher Bowdish of Demarest, N. J. contributes some general observations:

"Basic in provision and use of banding traps is the character of construction. The beginner is very apt to attempt to acquire an outfit of traps as quickly as possible, without too critical consideration of how satisfactorily the equipment is going to serve him.

Based on a very considerable amount of experience, some of it