

## COMMENTS

Dr. Paul H. Fluck, Lambertville, New Jersey, says:

"Aside from the two male Cowbirds that killed each other -- and that we found locked in their death struggle on the lawn of the Nature Center (at Washington Crossing Park, Penna.) -- note this observation on band sizes. Is this what often happens to bands we put on hawks?

"Our Broad-wing -- which was shot through the wing, is mending now -- and, fearful lest she get away unbanded, I slipped a number 5 band on her leg, closing the band firmly. I have banded Broad-wing nestlings before, but, of course, could not observe the outcome. This time, I put the Broad-wing in her cage and returned an hour later to find the band open and almost off. The bird's leg was sore and bleeding badly. I removed the band, and now, ten days later, the leg is healed but still shows a scar.

"I noted, on placing the band on this female Broad-wing, that her legs become conical just where the band is placed. The band thus becomes loose above and tight below. In Europe, the banders use bands with locking devices for herons and large hawks. I laughed at these old-fashioned devices, but the European banders insisted they were worth the extra cost. Perhaps they are right!

"I have not seen this happen to adult Red-tails or Sharpies, but I wonder if the shape of the Broad-wing's lower leg isn't the cause of the trouble.

"Anyhow, I'm hesitating to band my bird again with a 5 band. I may use a 6; or, should we shape the band to correspond to the conical lower tarsus?"

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## MORE ABOUT THE COVER

Dr. Harold B. Wood, 3016 N. Second St., Harrisburg, Pa., has this to say about the current cover of EBBA NEWS (which will be changed with the May-June issue):

"Your July-August EBBA NEWS is really very excellent. That includes

the cover with its omission. Once Jeff Gill included another excellent sketch of a bird, but he forgot the main guy, the band!

"Maybe, your bird is looking at the trap with hopes that therein, he may acquire his own band."

(Consultation with the author of the sketch, J.R.C., reveals that it was her intention that the Titmouse portrayed was yet unbanded.-Ed.)

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#### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF EBBA MEMBERS

At the recent annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, the question was raised as to the geographical distribution of EBBA members. The following tabulation shows the situation as of April 15, 1954. In so far as the Editor is informed, the area allocated to EBBA includes all the Atlantic seaboard states, exclusive of the New England states, and including the Canadian province of Ontario. Reference to the accompanying map will give, perhaps, a better idea of the distribution of our members. It is interesting to note that 46, or 22% of our members, reside outside the limits allocated to us, i.e., in territories in which other banding associations are assumed to be the ones to which banders should belong. However, it should be noted that banders who are members of one regional association frequently are members of one or more additional associations. The question was raised as to whether members of EBBA who reside out of the geographical area assigned to us should serve as officers of the association. While this issue was not definitely decided at the 1954 meeting, it is an interesting one, and the present geographical breakdown of the membership is presented so that members may be acquainted with the nature of the problem. It is hoped that members who have opinions concerning this matter will express them in EBBA NEWS.

The geographical distribution of EBBA members is as follows:

| Extra-limital Territory |           | EBBA Territory |    |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|----|
| NEW ENGLAND             |           | Ontario        | 8  |
|                         |           | New York       | 48 |
| Maine                   | 1         | New Jersey     | 46 |
| Massachusetts           | 10        | Pennsylvania   | 55 |
| Connecticut             | 10        | Delaware       | 4  |
| Total                   | <u>21</u> | Maryland       | 16 |