

RAYMOND MIDDLETON SCORES A TRIUMPH!

At the regular meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club held on Thursday evening, March 17, in The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Raymond J. Middleton, former EBBA President, spoke on "Thirty-three Years of Bird Banding at Norristown". His talk was excellently illustrated with 35mm slides taken and projected by his son, Raymond J. Middleton, Jr.

Mr. Middleton has banded 133 species and 40,843 individuals, which, together with repeats and returns, means that over 83,000 birds have been handled. Thirty-five species of warblers have been banded, all the species found in this area excepting the Cerulean. The speaker reported that the majority of his warblers are taken in ground traps with water as the bait.

In speaking of the Crested Flycatcher, Mr. Middleton reported that only 15 adults have supplied him with a breeding pair each year over a twenty-three years period.

Concerning House Wrens, he said that on only one occasion has a pair remained mated for more than one brood. In two instances, a male bird was mated with two females simultaneously, one on each side of the house.

When a picture of five nestling Screech Owls was shown, Mr. Middleton said that young Screech Owls all look alike when you look at them yet they all look different in a picture.

Following his talk, both Mr. Middleton and his son were warmly applauded for their presentation, after which various members paid tribute to Mr. Middleton's leading part in the securing of Audubon's "Mill Grove" as a part of the Montgomery County Park System and for his untiring efforts as President, for the 26th years, of the Norristown Audubon Club.--A.E.C.

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COWBIRDS -- INSTINCT OR COINCIDENCE?
by Arthur O. Stone, Jr.

For the past two seasons, I have had three flat traps as my only means to capture ground feeders. The first season netted me quite a few Cowbirds. Last season, along with the newly banded, I had some 25 Cow-

birds as returns.

This season finds me with an all-purpose trap replacing the flat traps and with much more success. All the regular 'year-round' birds and the new migrants have taken the change as a matter of course, but not the Cowbirds.

The Cowbirds not only sit in the trees and stare at the new trap but will constantly drop to the ground where the old traps were and look for food which was there in the past. They never venture toward the feed and the new trap. This has been going on for a week now (March 15), and only one, so far, has attempted to enter the trap.

As an experiment, I placed one of the flat traps in its old location and baited it with bread and corn. Within five minutes, I had captured one new and three old birds. The three returns were also repeaters the first year, proving they certainly were not strangers to my station.

Is it instinct or coincidence that makes them return to the same area and look for food on the very spot it was found previously?

Perhaps other banders with more experience than I can explain this. --Barnegat Pines, Forked River, New Jersey

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A REPORT OF BIRD BANDING IN THE VICINITY OF TOKYO, JAPAN
by H. Elliott McClure*

Bird banding in Japan is not done on the scale that it is in America. There are no volunteer banders; instead, the few birds that are ringed are done so by government officials with specific problems in mind. This has greatly limited the numbers and kinds of birds that are being marked, hence the amount of material that is accruing is extremely sketchy.

Literally millions of birds are caught each year by commercial

*Note: This article appeared in the January 1955 issue of News from the Bird Banders, organ of the Western Bird-Banding Association, and is reproduced herewith by permission of the Editor, Mr. Russell H. Pray, 662 Santa Rosa Ave., Berkeley 7, California. Before accepting his present position, Dr. McClure, also an EBBA member, banded over 10,000 birds while he was living in Bakersfield, California.