

WHAT NEXT WILL WE CATCH?

In a recent letter, Dr. Paul H. Fluck, of Lambertville, N.J., tells of his banding activities at Washington Crossing Park, Pa., during May. Banding only on three half-days a week, he banded 197 birds of 45 species and obtained 42 returns, including 6 Red-eyed Vireo returns and one of the Worm-eating Warbler which he thinks may well be the first recorded for that species. However, let him tell of his most unusual capture in his own words:

"Note the two Pekin Robins (*Leiothrix luteus*), a male and female, banded because they were obviously flying wild, moving with thrushes, and were in the Park less than 4 hours. The female was caught first and used as a bait to catch the male. Have Pekin Robins been breeding wild in the U.S.A.? Keep your eyes open -- and your ears! Voice is like no bird in this country, loud, and you can't miss it. Bill is bright orange, and birds are small, thrush-like birds."

(Note: This species is frequently encountered in pet shops, and it is quite likely that, due to the considerable attention which is needed in keeping them in captivity, someone who has had them may have tired of them and let them go. Or, since they are very active birds, they could readily escape. The song has somewhat the quality of our Bluebird, while the scold notes are rather Wren or Kinglet-like.-Ed.)

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A COMMENT ON CATS AT BANDING STATIONS

I usually go out of my way in avoiding the chance of hurting anyone's feelings, be it friend or stranger, but after reading Dr. Brooke Worth's 'Cat May Be of Some Value' in the November-December issue of EBBA News, it left me shocked and distressed as I am sure it must have other banders. So, to speak in terms of slang, I would like to get this off my chest.

I am not particularly a cat-hater, although it would be easy to be one after observing the work of the 'Gentle Pussy' over a period of seventeen years of working with birds. No doubt it never has occurred to the doctor that the presence of a cat or cats on the premises might account for his lack of recoveries, since birds would naturally shun a spot where they sensed danger.

We are, after all, luring these birds into our yards and traps with specialized foods. We are given special privileges as banders and should, as the banding manual states, have the safety and welfare of these birds in mind at all times.

It seems that since Dr. Worth is a cat-lover, which is certainly his privilege, he should stick to his first love, cats and cats alone. For, if 'tabby' runs true to form, it leaves one with the disquieting thought of how many birds are being happily munched on.--Lydia Gstell (Mrs. Robert Gstell), Evergreen Sanctuary, Berlin, Connecticut

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ABOUT THE LAUGHING GULL

Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tennessee, says this about a Laughing Gull that was recovered on the west coast of Mexico (EBBA NEWS, Nov-Dec 1954, p. 10):

"..very possibly the gull crossed over at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. While on birding vacations down the highway, we have had the impression that many gulls were crossing over from the Ixtepec area to the Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico side, or vice versa."

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NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members who have joined EBBA since the Annual Meeting. This brings the total of members to 269. The new members are:

Bordner, Dorothy L., 926 W. Beaver Ave., State College, Penna.
 Duvall, Allen J., Bird-banding Office, Patuxent Research
 Refuge, Laurel, Maryland
 Hewer, Philip, 21 Carley Ave., Huntington, L.I., N.Y.
 Hopkins, C. A. Porter, Bellona and Brightside Roads,
 Baltimore 12, Maryland
 Leuber, Dr. Gerhard W., 151 Upland Drive, Rochester 17, New York
 Washbourne, John L., Box 104, Peru, New York
 Williams, Edward A., Science Dept., Millbrook School, Millbrook, N.Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Thorne, Oakleigh, II, 1707 Hillside Road, Boulder, Colorado

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