

ARE DOWNY WOODPECKERS LESS NUMEROUS THAN LAST YEAR
by Albert E. Conway

Last Saturday, December 3, my wife and I visited the Washington Crossing Park banding station of Dr. and Mrs. Paul H. Fluck, and while we were there, Dr. Fluck lamented the scarcity of Downy Woodpeckers at that location and advanced the hypothesis that this was due to a large number of these birds being drowned in their holes, at night, by the August 19th flood of the Delaware River.

Since no examination was made of the remaining nest or roost holes immediately after the flood, support for the hypothesis will have to come indirectly by a comparison of pre-flood versus post-flood populations in both affected and non-flooded areas.

At Dr. Fluck's station, he banded about 70 birds from 1952 up until the flood, and, of these, more than half were recaptured in the half-year preceding the flood; since that time, only nine of these birds have been caught, and this despite the fact that this is the season when these birds come most readily to traps.

A similar situation exists at the Editor's station near Easton, where the Downies, like those at Washington Crossing, nest and roost along the river edge. Of 18 Downies banded and around all last Winter, none has been trapped this Winter, although a single banded bird and two others have been present. It should be noted that associated species, White-breasted Nuthatch and Hairy Woodpecker, also cavity nesters, are almost absent this year.

Members who have kept accurate records of Downy numbers in previous Winters are requested to send us their observations, In this way, it should be possible to determine whether this is a situation peculiar to the flooded areas or to other areas as well. That the latter may be true is suggested by a pre-Christmas Count trial run which my wife and I made today, December 11, in which we saw no Downies in areas in which we usually get from 10 to 20. Let's see what others can show.

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CHECK YOUR RECOVERY FORMS FOR ERRORS

Mr. Allen J. Duvall requests all banders to check the reports of recoveries sent to them on Form 3-624 and to advise the Banding

Office of any inconsistencies which might be present. After all, like the banders themselves, the people in the banding office are human, and errors can occur. In this connection, it might be mentioned that it is desirable, before publishing any recovery records in any medium, to have the record corroborated by the Banding Office. This procedure will avoid the publication and subsequent perpetuation of erroneous records; in submitting such records to the Editor of EBBA NEWS, it would be helpful to state that such has been done.

In reference to the note by Dr. C. Brooke Worth (EBBA NEWS, Jul-Aug, 1955, p. 57), it should be stated that the purpose of this note was to poke fun at an apparently impossible situation and at the former vocation of the Editor rather than to publish a record of a recovery as such. As Mr. Duvall mentions in a letter, there was an error in transcription of the report, but there is no point in publishing the correction here since the whole recovery record was not presented in the first place.

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NOTES AND NEWS ABOUT EBBA MEMBERS

New EBBA member, Edward M. Noll, of Hatboro, Pennsylvania, is already nationally and internationally renowned as an authority and consultant on television, especially concerning antenna systems.



Recently, the latest revision of his "Television for Radiomen" has been published (Macmillan, 1955, \$10.00). From an examination of this book, your Editor would say that Mr. Noll not only possesses a formidable and assured grasp of his subject but that he also writes in a most lucid and entertaining style.

Dr. Paul H. Fluck, of Lambertville, New Jersey, informs the Editor that Mr. Noll has recently sold an article to 'Audubon Magazine' concerning the recording of bird songs on tape. This topic will surely be of interest and value to students of bird song.

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All EBBA members, new or old, please send in something of interest about yourselves. Don't make the Editor do it all!

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