

a couple of windows inside, it was finally captured, placed in a paste-board carton, and delivered to my home. The bird was examined and found to be in first class condition. It apparently suffered no ill effects of its bout with the windows and office personnel. I banded it, and, at dawn the next morning, it was released at the local reservoir. He took off, voicing his appreciation for his freedom; in fact, he circled that pond for about ten minutes and never stopped quacking until he disappeared in a southerly direction, evidently heading for the Chesapeake Bay area. --West Lincoln Highway, R.D. 2, Coatesville, Pa.

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WANTED --- MATERIAL FOR EBBA NEWS

Thanks to the generous response of many members, it is possible for this issue of EBBA NEWS to be sent to the printer two days ahead of the February 1 deadline set for that purpose. In order that the March-April issue may meet its deadline, the Editor would like to have additional material for that purpose reach him by March 15.

Longer articles and studies are especially desired, although notes and comments are equally welcome. We would also like photos of traps, station surroundings, banding devices, etc. Will you help?

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NOTES AND NEWS ABOUT BIRDS AND BANDERS

The following appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on December 30, 1955:

"SYRACUSE, N.Y., Dec. 29 (UP).-- A lazy loon that waited too late in the season to head south has arrived safely in Nashville, Tenn., in an airliner.

"The 10-pound bird was discovered Monday on frozen Oneida Lake. It faced certain starvation as loons need water for a take-off, and they live on fish.

"Dr. Benjamin Burt (EBBA member--Ed.), a Syracuse University professor, came to the rescue, arranging with an airline to fly the tardy bird south."

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G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford 5, Conn., says, "If

folks down South are wondering what has happened to the 'Peabody Birds' this Winter, let me report that we have a flock of at least a dozen of them feeding daily at our station, and this in spite of the fact that, to date (December 24), our Winter has been abnormally cold. Two Robins are sharing our mountain ash berries with the Evening Grosbeaks. This latter species broke every arrival record in our files by showing up the day before Thanksgiving. There may well be a significant correlation between this early arrival date and an observation we made last Summer in Down East Maine. The spruces and the firs which surrounded our wilderness cabin, and which are usually laden heavily with fruit, bore, last Summer, not even a single cone.

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Frank P. Frazier, Jr., 424 Highland Ave., Upper Montclair, New Jersey, and a student at Swarthmore College, has this to say about a banding expedition to Machias Seal Island:

"On July 30, 1955, I went with several others from the Audubon Camp of Maine to Cutler, Maine, to take a trip out to Machias Seal Island. We went to the island in beautiful weather, which is not common in that area. Approximately 10,000 pairs of Arctic Terns nest on Machias, but it took the better part of the day to band just one hundred of them, since the young birds, when old enough to band, burrow deep among the rocks and in the grass, and it's quite a job to find them. Atlantic Puffins, the main attraction of Machias, nest deep down in rock crevices and are generally inaccessible, but I was able to band two, and adult and a fledgling, getting them out by almost going into the burrow with the birds.

"The island, in some places, is riddled by the nesting burrows of Leach's Petrels, most of which are longer than a man's arm, but we eventually found and banded four adults and one young Petrel. The grand finale came, on the boat trip back to Cutler, as first a Sooty Shearwater, then, more distant, two Greater Shearwaters were seen from the boat.

"A bander with a week or so to spare could spend it very profitably on Machias, with 10,000 pairs of Arctic Terns, and Puffins, for diversion!"

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Lucie McDougall (Mrs. Harry McDougall), 1592 Centre Road, Port Credit, Ontario, tells of banding a very rare visitor to her station:

"...on Saturday, September 24th (1955), in the early a.m., one adult Harris Sparrow and one immature arrived and were feeding on the ground outside my dining room window with the House Sparrows and White-throats and White-crowns. The adult stayed for only an hour, but the immature stayed for five days, allowing all the interested bird watchers to sit in deck chairs in my garden watching the handsome fellow get his fill of the mixed seed which I kept scattered on the ground. I baited the Xmas. trap (Purchased from Jeff Gill; Ed.) with tasty morsels on the Monday a.m. and had no difficulty in getting him to partake thereof.

"With shaking hands, I banded the very rare visitor and held him in good position so that a friend might take a picture in color for the museum, as it was a first. The picture has come out 100%. The museum, of course, was driving me crazy to collect the bird, but I would not allow it; however, the picture serves the same purpose."

(Note: While there may be a legitimate reason for collecting birds in connection with some particular problem, it appears that the mere documentation of an extra-limital record does not, per se, require that the bird be collected. For example, at the time that a male Golden-crowned Sparrow was captured in Pennsylvania (EBBA NEWS, July 1952, p. 4), Dr. Alexander Wetmore and Ludlow Griscom agreed, in an unofficial capacity, that the record warranted acceptance by the A.O.U. as a valid state record without its being prepared as a specimen; however, in addition to the above-mentioned authorities, the record was corroborated by many other competent persons as well as being photographed by many persons.

The mere fact that a bander reports that he has banded a given species does, of itself, NOT establish or validate a record. For example, in at least two cases, banders have reported that they banded certain very unusual birds without having had the bird examined by other persons or having taken photographs; in such cases, it is not possible to accept these records as being 'firsts' for the states concerned.

Therefore, if you are so fortunate as to capture an unusually rare bird for your area, remember to do the following: (1) record a detailed description of the bird, including measurements; (2) have the capture identified by one or more competent persons other than yourself; and,

(3) photograph the bird, preferably in color, so as to show clearly the important identification marks. If this is done, the record will serve as a basis for a new record for your region and, at the same time, permit the bird concerned go on its way.--Editor)

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Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L.I., N.Y., contributes these interesting comments:

"I have banded three Cardinals this year (1955) at my station, 2 last February and one this November. Yesterday (Dec. 8), there were four in the yard, two males and two females; one is banded, probably the female I got last month, and one male has a very short tail. Only one other Cardinal, to my knowledge, has been banded on Long Island. This occurred about 1946, the bird being banded by Dick Fischer in Flushing. This species, while always common in northern New Jersey, Westchester County, N.Y., and parts of western New York, has become a regular visitor to Long Island in the last few years.

"It is to be noted that Dr. Paul H. Fluck has banded very few Juncos at Washington Crossing Park this Autumn, while getting a large number of White-throats. Beecher Bowdish of Demarest, N.J., reports a similar situation. His third Junco for the season was taken November 17th.

On the other hand, I banded 187 Juncos in October and hardly got any White-throats.

On the other hand, I banded 187 Juncos in October and hardly got any White-throats. November began to see White-throats pick up and Juncos fall off. At present, I have about 235 Juncos and 80 White-throats for the season. Possibly some other banders in New Jersey have noticed a very late flight with Juncos, and the banders along the Long Island Sound, such as at Hartford, may have had a very heavy early flight with the birds being held in that vicinity by unseasonable weather or large quantities of natural food.

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Dorothy J. Hartmann (Mrs. Henry F.), New Hope, Penna., tells of her recent experiences:

"During the last week of November, an oriole appeared at the home of my mother and my brother and was seen several times, and last week (first week of December) I saw two of them there with a flock of Starlings feeding on apples. They appear to be females. Howard Mahnken saw

a female in Lambertville, N.J., on December 10, eating rotten pears.

"A Yellow-breasted Chat is coming regularly, but so far, he has eaten only fresh apples at the feeding station.

"Last Winter, we had a Screech Owl which spent several days in a low hole in apple tree. After a warm, rainy night when hunting had been very good, I found the owl in the hole with three complete dead mice and one with the head gone.

"The owl remained for a day or two, ejected several pellets -- all of mouse fur and bones -- but did not eat the mice. Then, one by one, the dead mice disappeared -- finally the half too. At this time the weather was again cold, with frozen ground, so the mousing would not be good.

"I did not see him return and take the mice, of course, but there was nothing else that could or would have gotten into that hole and devoured every scrap of mouse. Is there any record of a Screech Owl caching food for lean times?"

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President Frazier contributes these notes:

"Regarding Mrs. Dumont's Junco note in the Sep-Oct 1955 issue, I band an average of 500 Juncos a year and have never trapped a Junco carrying the band of a nearby bander nor has one of my Juncos been reported by a nearby bander.

"Regarding Malcolm J. Lerch's piece on banding with the aid of mist nets in the Nov-Dec issue, I was most interested in his statement that when a young swallow would hit the net and scream for help, the air would be full of swallows who paid little attention to the net and so were captured, too. I do not get swallows in my nets, but I do capture many different species. I have not found that distress calls, when I am abstracting birds from the net, attracts other birds into them. But if this works for swallows, I think it ought to work for other species.

"Has anyone put distress calls on a tape recorder and played them back in order to lure birds into nets? Or, into the vicinity of traps? It seems to me that there are great possibilities here."

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