



EBBA NUS

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A Friendly Report to Members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

March 1939

Let Us Band Together

Vol. 2- No. 1

THANK YOU - PHILADELPHIA !!

Red letter days in the '39 history of this Association were Feb. 24, 25 and 26th, the dates of the annual meeting in Philadelphia. Condensed reports of the meetings and the open session program held in the Academy of Natural Sciences on the 25th will be found elsewhere in this issue. Attendance reached a new high mark. Enthusiasm, keen interest and a fine spirit of friendliness sounded the keynote of the entire convention. Banders met many others for the first time. Great was the exchanging of notes and experiences. To sum up the entire get-together in a trite, yet true phrase, it can be said, "A good time was had by all".

MEMBERSHIP

To prove that the Association's recent record breaking influx of new members is not exceptional, but rather the rule, an impressive list of new-comers who have joined us since the last issue, is herewith proudly announced. It is the hope of the Association that banders will pick out the name of the nearest new member and write them a short note offering to exchange experiences or data. It is with a distinct feeling of pride that we introduce the following new members:

- Ashton, Randolph, 800 Crown St., Morrisville, Pa.
- Baker, G. Dunn, R.F.D. #1, Dalton, N. Y.
- Batezel, Walt R., 720 Raymond Avenue, Camden, N. J.
- Becker, Miss Edna E., Hollins College, Va.
- Brockner, Winston W., 175 Dutton Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y.
- Cadbury, Joseph M., 6631 Blakemore St., Philadelphia, Penna.
- Chatham, Thurmond, 112 Stratford Road, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- Convey, Frank H., R.D. #1, Newton, N. J.
- Davidson, W. M., R.F.D. #1, Silver Spring, Md.
- Frederico, R., Director, Southampton Township Wildfowl Assn. Quogue, N.Y.
- Gardenier, Harold C., D.D.S., Westwood, N. J.
- Grant, William W., 816 South Main Street, Geneva, N. Y.
- Greene, Dr. Robert A., 11 Second St., Geneseo, N. Y.
- Imhof, Thomas, 413 Autumn Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Johnson, Maynard S., New Holland, N. C.
- Luck, Mrs. W. H., 670 Belvidere Road, Phillipsburg, N. J.
- Miller, Eugene S. Jr., 74 East Penn St., Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Miller, Jesse V., Junior-Senior High School, Manhasset, L.I., N.Y.
- Moore, James Earl, Bonita Springs, Florida
- Neely, William W., 149 West End Street, Chester, S.C.
- Nichols, Charles K., 212 Hamilton Road, Ridgewood, N. J.
- Raska, Miss Clara, 21-14 149th St., Whitestone, L.I., N. Y.
- Schmidt, Arthur H., 12 West 84th Street, New York, N.Y.
- Taylor, Mrs. Perry E., Main St., Schoharie, N.Y.
- Trembley, Francis J., 429 Hekewelder St., Bethlehem, Pa.
- Volz, Louis E., 55 Bridges Ave., Massena, N.Y.
- West, Franklin H., 903 Bryn Mawr Ave., Narberth, Pa.
- Wheeler, William C., North St., Katonah, N. Y.
- Wildman, Dr. Edward E., Parkway at 21st St., Philadelphia, Pa.
- Worth, Mrs. C. Brooke, Swarthmore, Pa.

EBBA NEWS

BRIEF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS

On the evening of Feb. 24th the officers and councillors met at the Philadelphia YMCA where various committees reported on their activities during the past year.

At 11 A.M. the next day a business meeting was held in the auditorium of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Mrs. Marie V. Beals was elected Vice President and Verdi Burtch was elected Councillor to fulfill her unexpired term of two years. J. J. Hickey's term as Councillor having expired, Geoffrey Gill was elected to serve in his place and allow Mr. Hickey to devote his full time to the Gull Survey. Albert Conway was elected as a new Councillor for Pennsylvania and all other officers and councillors were re-elected.

William Pepper, Jr., Treasurer, made his report and John A. Gillespie of the auditing committee reported the books in order.

Mrs. Marie V. Beals of the membership committee reported a membership of 143. (Now forging ahead past the 150 mark)

Geoffrey Gill of the publicity committee reported more than 20 stories about banders being published in their home papers.

Dr. Witmer Stone was elected an Honorary Member.

Business meeting adjourned.

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An Open Meeting was held in the same place in the afternoon and was attended by 70 members and guests. A program of the very interesting papers will be found elsewhere in this issue and many will be published in BIRD-BANDING.

Numerous displays were set up in the hall outside the auditorium. These included: The Latest Type Traps; Healed Bird Bones; A Bluebird Housing Project; Newspaper Publicity of Banders; Drawings of Song Sparrow Breast Markings; Pictures of Berries and Shrubs Preferred by Birds; A Summary of the Work at Birdwood, Mr. and Mrs. Beal's station; and a variety of ornithological literature.

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At 6 o'clock dinner was served at Holland's Restaurant and 36 people attended. This was followed by short addresses by Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Frederick C. Lincoln and Beecher S. Bowdish. Randolph Ashton then showed three reels of colored moving pictures of birds. The Secretary thanked him on behalf of EBBA. This brought the day's activities to a close.

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At 9 o'clock, Feb. 26th, 13 members met at the Academy of Natural Sciences and went on a field trip which lasted until 4:30 P.M. This trip included visits to the homes and banding stations of Mr. and Mrs. John Gillespie at Glenolden, C. B. Worth in Swarthmore, Horace Groskin in Ardmore, Horace McCann in Paoli, and Raymond J. Middleton in Norristown. Luncheon was enjoyed at the Spread Eagle Inn at Strafford.

In President Herman's absence on an expedition to Africa, Dr. Worth presided at the various meetings listed above.

PROGRAM OF THE OPEN MEETING

Swarthmore, Penna.
Cats

- Welcoming Address, by Dr. C. Brooke Worth.
- Opening Address, by Frederick C. Lincoln.
- Berry-bearing Trees and Shrubs Preferred by Birds, by Mrs. M. V. Beals.
- Two New Ideas for a Water Trap, by A. T. Beals.
- Notes on the Chickadees at Mount McGregor, N.Y., by Dorothy W. Caldwell.
- Progress Report on the Gull Survey, by R. P. Allen and J. J. Hickey.
- Length of Stay of Migrants in Eastern Pennsylvania, by R. J. Middleton.
- Further Details of the Migration Habits of White Throated Sparrows, by Mrs. Mabel Gillespie.
- Recoveries from Herring Gulls, Black Skimmers, Common Terns and Ospreys Banded along the Middle Atlantic Coast, by John A. Gillespie.
- Nesting Habits of the Whip-poor-will, by Gilbert Raynor.
- Trapping Birds on Walt Whitman's Tomb, by Walter R. Batezel.
- Song Sparrow Breast Spots, by Dr. Harold B. Wood.
- The Bluebird Project, by Geoffrey Gill.
- The Future of the Disease Survey, by Dr. C. Brooke Worth.

EXHIBITS.

- Song Sparrow Breast Spots. Drawings by Dr. Harold B. Wood.
- Healed Fractures of Birds. Specimens of Drs. Worth, Wood and Merrill Wood
- Bluebird Project. Geoffrey Gill.
- Newspaper Publicity of EBBA.
- Books and Journals of Interest to Bird Banders.
- Exhibition of Traps. A.T.Beals, William Pepper Jr., and Dr. William Pepper.

CATS AND CASUALTIES

Much can be said for and against cats. No bander can deny that they are the cause of a number of recoveries of small birds, yet "Tabby's" habit of bringing her kill home may be a blessing in disguise, as in this way they are usually reported. Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. has been notified recently of the following recoveries by the Survey: Robin, banded Sept. 5, 1937, killed by a cat at Tenafly, N.J., Aug. 12, 1938. Song Sparrow, banded April 9, 1938, killed by a cat, May 1, 1938 at St. John, New Brunswick. Catbird (jv.) banded June 25, 1938, killed by Automobile Aug. 11, 1938 at Teaneck, N.J.

Mr. Bowdish adds, "The auto in the country constitutes a serious menace to bird life, but by the foregoing, the cat still maintains supremacy in this respect by 2 to 1, even in the far north."

EVERY MEMBER TO GET A NEW LIST BOOK

The above slogan was adopted by all present at the annual banquet at Philadelphia. It was further suggested that no one need confine their efforts to getting just one. Each member should ask as many as they can to join in making EBBA the liveliest banding organization ever! Recently membership has doubled. Let's re-double! All funds are used to publish BIRD-BANDING, send out EBBA-NUS, as well as other services. Write, phone, or call on anyone interested in birds, whether banders or not. Get them to join. Dues are \$2.50 a year, payable to William Pepper Jr., 110 Glenview Avenue, Wyncote, Pa.

NOTE: About a dozen members have forgotten to send in their 1939 dues. Help your Association by attending to this right away. It is disappointing to lose any EBBA member, but, a growing organization is like a growing tree. Each year the tree discards dead leaves to grow greater each Spring. This organization, it is believed, has no dead leaves....just a very few who have forgotten to do before, what it is hoped they will surely do TODAY.

WHAT BANDERS ARE DOING

Barton L. Sharp, 201 N. Broad St., Lititz, Pa. proposes the banding of Upland Plovers with colored bands, Size #3. He would like to hear from banders who would be interested in such a project.

Dr. C. B. Worth, Swarthmore, Pa., recently converted an assortment of small traps into one "jumbo" trap, more than 8 ft. square, with sparrow-trap, woodpecker and top opening entrances. Reports he is now catching birds 10 at a time. Many banders still favor the scattered trap plan. He had an 8 year old Chimney Swift return last Fall.

Dr. H. B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. expects to pass the 3,000 mark of birds banded by him, this year. The first bird he banded was a Sparrow Hawk. He has done considerable work with Bank Swallows.

Malcolm Lerch, Penn Yan, N.Y. operates, besides his own station, 3 sub-stations at the homes of friends. He is having excellent luck with Song Sparrows. He says, "Experience is the best teacher". All members of EBBA will heartily second this statement.

WHAT YOU COULD DO

Get a new member! If everyone would get a new member the Association could increase the size of EBBA-NUS or send it to you more often.

Buy your copy of "The Log of Tanager Hill" through the Association. It is the first published diary of 8 years work at a banding station. Send \$2.50 to the treasurer, William Pepper Jr., 110 Glenview Ave., Wyncote, Pa. Such a purchase will aid your Association and provide you with many interesting facts.

Plan a Bluebird Housing Project for your community for 1940. It isn't too early to begin now for next Spring as experience shows that it must be planned well in advance. Besides the projects mentioned in January BIRD-BANDING, plus one under way on Long Island, mentioned in the previous EBBA-NUS, Miss A. B. Dobbin, 1308 Bolton St., Baltimore, Md. is planning one in Elk Ridge, Md. and Mrs. M. V. Beals, Elmhurst, N.Y. is getting the Queens County Bird Club busy with another for 1940, now, so that the houses can be put outside and weathered.

Any member interested in a community project, either for Bluebirds or Wrens, may procure a complete kit through the Association for \$1.00. This kit includes: Project outline of 4 typed pages, suitable for scouts, school lads, 4-H club members, etc., with contest features but with the welfare of the birds given first consideration; 1 page of drawings of an approved house with complete specifications; a page of placing instructions and a completely built house to use as a model or ready to erect. Inquiries should be addressed to Geoffrey Gill, Huntington, L.I., N.Y. and checks should be payable to the Association which derives all benefit.

QUESTIONS

Members are requested to send replies or additional questions to Mrs. Marie V. Beals, 58-33 85th St., Elmhurst, L.I., N.Y. Answers and questions will appear in EBBA-NUS, when of general interest. Others will be answered by mail.

William Davidson, Beltsville, Md., has had little success trapping warblers with top opening traps. He would like to obtain two 6 or 8 cell Brenckle warbler traps. Can any bander supply him with these or give him information where he could get them?

The report of the Annual Meeting postpones promised features due to lack of space.