



# EBBA NUS

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

September 1939

Let Us Band Together

Vol. 2- No. 2

## GREETINGS AGAIN ! !

We offer our members a happy hello, and ask their kind indulgence for our recent silence. During the hot summer months many of us migrated to cooler climes or on trips all over the land. Issues of this news-letter were temporarily suspended partly for this reason and partly from other causes. However, here we are again, pleased to learn that the aims of this organ, "To bring our members in closer contact with each other" have been carried forward by our members. Many have visited neighboring banders, spreading encouragement and interest in the work of each other.

## MEMBERSHIP

Despite summer vacations, heat waves and drought our parade of new members marches on. The campaign for every member to get a new member is swinging along in fine style. If you haven't already brought in a new member, remember we are looking forward to your efforts in this line, very shortly. In the mean time, may we be permitted the pleasure of introducing the following new members and call to your attention our growing strength in Florida and Canada.

- Barber, T. Ross, 84 Norfolk St., Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
- Bentley, Geo. R., 1874 West University Ave., Gainesville, Fla.
- Bland, John, 340 Coconut Row, Palm Beach, Fla.
- Brokaw, Dewitt P., 176 Rockview Ave., Plainfield, N.J.
- Brooks, Miss Margaret, Nat'l Assn. Audubon Societies, 1006 Fifth Ave., New York.
- Davis, H.T., Director, North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh, N.C.
- Dumont, Mrs. Marie, 192 Pompton Pike, Pequannock, N.J.
- Fuller, Ramond T., Winterton, Sullivan County, New York.
- Hallman, R.C., P.O.Box 826, Panama City, Fla.
- Haskell, Miss Bessie C., North Country School, Box 187, Lake Placid, N.Y.
- Hennessy, T.S., Apt.#1, 455 Laurier Ave., West Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- Howell, L. Moffitt, R.F.D. #1, Box #433, Jacksonville, Fla.
- Jones, Harold C., Mount Berry, Georgia.
- Krebs, Mrs. H.J., Hillside House, Lancaster Pike, R.F.D. #1, Wilmington, Del.
- Meleney, Miss Grace C., 200 Chatterton Parkway, White Plains, N.Y.
- Pyle, George W., Box 647, Berwyn, Pa.
- Robinson, Major George D., Jungle Manor, St. Petersburg, Fla.
- Southam, Herbert H., 62 Laing St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Verrill, Ray M., 332 Sterling Ave., Buffalo, New York.
- Whigham, Mrs. A.L., Century, Fla.

All checks should be made payable to the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Dues should be sent to William Pepper, Jr., Treasurer, 210 Glenview Ave., Wyncote, Pa. Help increase our membership!!!

RUFFED CHICKENS RUFFLE OWNER

I have trapped cats, opossums, rabbits, squirrels and chickens, but this far no skunks. The chickens were owned by a neighbor. As I caught them I tied a large sign around their necks which read: "Keep your chickens at home". They were very funny picking their way through the woods, each with its bib. The neighbor took the hint and locked them up.

Carl A. Pedersen, Montvale, N.J.

"DUNKING" FOR DUCKS

A Central Park Lake, in the heart of New York City, is an annual winter haven for 200 to 400 wild ducks, mostly Blacks with a number of other species.

In late September, 1937, a female Shoveller, apparently the first record of this species, arrived on the lake. About six weeks later two more lady Shovellers dropped in and were soon busy competing for their share of peanuts.

Early one cold morning, after nearly a month of stalking, I finally managed to lure one of them ashore and maneuvered it against a large rock, at the same time baiting other ducks close in to cut off its retreat and hamper flight. Thus I was able to band it. This bird departed the following April and returned in October. The other two Shovellers went away unbanded.

A dozen Mallards, Black ducks and one Pintail were taken by baiting them in close to shore with rice and quickly grabbing them while their heads were under water. This method calls for a certain amount of abandon, and results in more wet feet than in captures, where the truly wild birds are concerned. However, none of the ducks will tolerate the approach of anyone carrying a cord or other snaring device and of course regular traps are out of the question in a public park. It is necessary to work in the early morning to avoid being accosted by indignant ladies or setting a bad example for predatory small boys.

The banding of a good proportion of these ducks might bring valuable returns. Interested banders of New York and other large cities are urged to visit their parks and try their hand at "ducking" for ducks.

Donald Wylie, New York City.

OWL AND LAD \*\* GOOSE \*\* bad, --- BOOM !!

A juvenile great horned owl was brought to me by a high school pupil. The bird was found in a wood lot near his home and after it was banded on May 12, it was decided to release it again where it was found so that the adults might still care for it. The lad took it home and, unknown to me, it was kept in a pen until the following September. Then, when given its freedom, as it was accustomed to being around farm buildings, it flew across the road to a neighboring farm where it saw a flock of geese. It immediately made for one of them in plain view of the farmer. Of course, a shot gun soon put an end to it, but too late for the goose. This incident did not put my bird banding in any too good reput with the farmers of the neighborhood.

Howard Krug, Chesley, Canada.

## IN MEMORIAM

The past year has seen the passing of two of our most eminent colleagues,

S. Prentiss Baldwin, of Gates Mills, Ohio, died on December 31, 1938. It was Dr. Baldwin who first realized the possibilities of and perfected a technique for trapping and banding adult wild birds. Realizing the value of cooperation, it was he who through the years worked unremittingly to interest and organize ornithologists in this line of endeavor, giving liberally both of his time and his money to that end. He collaborated with Mr. F. C. Lincoln to publish Manual for Bird Banders, which has at one time or another been as a bible to many of us. Dr. Baldwin had long been Honorary President of the Eastern Bird Banding Association, an office which he also held in the Inland and Northeastern Bird Banding Associations.

Witmer Stone, of Philadelphia, Pa., died on May 23, 1939. Dr. Stone, a former President of the American Ornithologists Union and editor of The Auk, had been for many years a leader in the active study of birds. He saw clearly the many sided character of the science of Ornithology, and was truly interested in all its varied phases. Dr. Stone was an executive officer of our association when it was organized in 1923. At our last annual meeting in February, 1939 in Philadelphia, Dr. Stone was elected an Honorary Life Member.

The death of both Dr. Baldwin and Dr. Stone is a great personal loss to a wide circle of friends whose interests they shared and to whom they were a constant inspiration. -- J.T.N.

## UNUSUAL CAPTURES

I had been spending a weekend at Kingsley, Iowa. One morning I took a walk along a small stream where I used to fish as a boy. The old mill dam had quite an area of drift caught above it, most of it light stuff that floated easily. As I stood at that point, a cedar waxwing flew down from a tree and alighted on the floating drift, apparently believing it to be solid. It was not and he sank. On reappearing he was not able to take wing from the water. The bird flapped its way to the shore at my feet where I picked it up. This waxwing thus became my first banded bird. -- Charles J. Spiker, Branchport, N.Y.

I noticed a butterfly fluttering around in a large potter trap. This butterfly did not seem to have enough sense to fly out of the door so I left it there, jokingly remarking that it might be good bait. To my surprise, next morning, I found my first crested flycatcher in the trap. It must have been attracted by the butterfly for the only other bait in the trap was bread. I experimented later with dead butterflies on slender threads, but the birds were not deceived and the only other crested flycatchers I have banded were caught in their nesting holes. -- Gilbert S. Raynor, Manorville, L.I., N.Y.

Mrs. Herman Betz, who has maintained a banding station on Caladesi Island, off the coast of Florida, has banded many crested flycatchers by using a nest-box trap.

Song sparrow, 36-162610, banded by Henry P. Baily at Overbrook, Pa. in October, 1936 was caught at Camdon, N.C. in February, 1937 and returned in the traps at Overbrook again on March 27, 1937.

### WHAT BANDERS ARE DOING

Dr. C. Brook Worth, Swarthmore, Pa., beginning September 1, will spend a year with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research at Princeton, N.J. studying bird diseases.

Edward E. Wildman of Philadelphia, Pa., with the help of his boys erected a dozen or so bird houses in the famous John Bartram Gardens and it is hoped did some banding of fledgelings in bulk through this method.

Dr. H.B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. spoke to several groups including Girl Scouts and the industrial section of the YMCA on the subject of bird banding. Such talks, even of a very informal nature, better the chances of an occasional recovery being reported. Banders should accept these opportunities at all times and spread the word as to reporting banded birds when found.

### WHAT YOU COULD DO

If you have not already done so, send in a report on the spring purple finch invasion to James L. Peters, Editor of Bird Banding, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass. Even if you did not band any, but they were present around your station, send a report.

Get a new member! If you have not already done so, do it soon. With new members it will be possible to increase the size of EBBA-NUS or send it to you more often.

### GOVERNMENTAL CHANGE

Bird banding activities, formerly under the control of the Department of Agriculture, are now under the Department of Interior.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Members are requested to send replies or additional questions to Mrs. 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.

In reply to Mrs. Dumont of N.J. who wishes to know how to trap Whip-poor-wills: Mr. G.S. Raynor of Manorville, N.Y. writes that the only method he has devised to trap the adult birds is to first find the nest. Then set a drop trap over it and run a string out fifty feet or so, anywhere beyond the point at which the bird usually flushes and then go away for an hour or so. Come back and pull the string and nine times out of ten you'll have the bird. In my experience, catching the adult on the nest has never disturbed the eggs in any way. This technique works well on Killdeer and probably for most ground nesting birds. However, care must be exercised in not attracting predators to the nest.

Mrs. Herman Betz of Dunedin, Fla. has also banded Chuck-will's Widows on the nest.

" Visit your neighboring banding stations this fall  
or send them a post card concerning your banding. "