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EBBA'S PRESIDENT SAYS: This bander has been getting quite a few letters lately that contain those wornout alibis that banders think up when they sit down to a typewriter with a persimmon-twisted face. Alibis like: "I don't have time to do much banding this year" or "Our dogs are having pups, and you know how much time that takes" or "I simply don't know how you do it. We haven't had a minute to band."

Banding time is an ephemeral, unsalvageable item. It is more valuable than a yard filled with house traps, a suitcase filled with nets, or an acre of Hawthorne and Mulberry trees. Every bander -- if he is to remain a bander -- must find his own banding time. And this bander hopes that a recent article by Mr. Barrie Hunt published in Inland Banding News will help EBBA banders who have been writing these wornout alibis.

Mr. Hunt's time study covers the whole field of trapping time, and his graphs include hour by hour studies of species, and numbers, of birds trapped. Although only 3400 individuals (including repeats) are included in Mr. Hunt's study, and the whole should be corrected for time of year, weather, and type of locale, Mr. Hunt seems to have debunked the over-inflated importance of early morning banding hours. He found that only in the case of mourning doves did the 7 to 10 A.M. time produce more birds than the 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. banding time. This fact will of course be contested vigorously by EBBA's editor, and Seth Low, and other early morning banding fans. But if it is possible to obtain Mr. Hunt's permission, this bander would like to see EBBA NEWS reprint the time study article in full in a coming issue.

Too many banders toss the pliers and bands in a box, and push the drawer closed, when they have to abandon early morning banding for some reason or other. TV is here to stay, so are late staying house guests, new babies, and the natural American tendency to share our days with owls instead of orioles. Every bander does have time to band! Whether your traps sit on a third floor tin roof in the city, or in a million dollar estate, lack of banding time is not the insurmountable obstacle

it may appear at first glance. If you use your vacation to build the type of equipment you need to do the job, at the hours you have available, and have one of your youngsters, or a retired neighbor set your traps prior to your arrival home from work, you can still band hundreds -- even thousands of birds every year.

Even if you are one of the banders who have sacrificed banding time for TV time, help may be coming. Right now at Washington Crossing Park EBBA's famous electronic engineer, Ed Noll is wiring mist nets to switchboards, so night owl banders can band real owls, during TV commercials.

Now please.....no more of those long faced letters: "I don't have time to band this year because -----"

Paul H. Fluck ★★

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Academy of Natural Sciences, Phila., Pa., April 6-7, 1957

COUNCIL MEETINGS A special meeting of the Council to discuss the netting controversy resulting from articles appearing in EBBA NEWS was called by President Paul H. Fluck for March 3, 1957, and held at Washington Crossing, Pa., with seven members of the Council present. After considerable discussion, the Council went on record in approval of the banding techniques as authorized for use among the cooperators by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Council also endorsed the plan of the Service to sponsor training programs for all applicants for netting permits.

Matters dealt with at the Business Meeting of the Council on April 6, eleven members being present and President Fluck presiding, included: Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings, approval of the Treasurer's report (which appears elsewhere in this issue), re-appointment of Frank P. Frazier to serve as EBBA NEWS editor for another year, and a progress report of the committee, Eleanor Dater chairman, on the working out of plans for forming a national council of bird banding associations.

Ramsey, New Jersey, will be the place of the next annual meeting, the Council decided after hearing an invitation from the Fyke Nature Society. The date will be either April 12-13 or 19-20, 1958.

ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION OF OFFICERS After reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, and of the Treasurer's Report, President Fluck called for the report of the Nominating Committee. The nominating committee proposed the election of the same officers as had served during the previous year and the follow-