



The Editor with Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kane had a very successful day at Hawk Mountain on October 26th, with a total of 172 hawks including 136 Red-tails and, notably, four Goshawks. Up to the 26th, 67 Goshawks had been counted there this season, of which 36 were seen the week preceding Oct. 26. It appears that this is to be

a Goshawk "invasion year" and so say the experts at Hawk Mountain. It also appears that this will be a "finch year" judging from recent reports so perhaps good winter banding is in store for us.



Treasurer Elise Dickerson, after a vigorous season of Block Island O.R. banding, is visiting her daughter in San Diego, California and, we hear, doing some interesting banding there while accumulating "life-birds". (See News in Brief for March-April 1968.)



Harold E. Burt writes, regarding Dr. Blake's lack of Starling returns (EBBA News 31:5, p. 234), "My experience has been otherwise. I have had 12 returns from 24,784 Starlings banded, and with a sample of 8,736 birds I have had 119 repeats. Traps differ in the way they facilitate learning to avoid the trap. If we are teaching an animal to avoid a certain behavior we negatively reinforce (punish) the undesired behavior immediately. If the reinforcement is delayed the animal does not learn as readily, like the child that is not punished until father comes home that night. Blake used a nest-box trap which presumably closed and startled the bird immediately upon entry. My Starlings entered a decoy trap and at the outset were rewarded with food. It was at least several minutes before they went into their escape routine...so they did not consistently learn trap avoidance. It is as simple as that."



Deadline for the next issue is January 3, 1969 - please don't wait until then to send us articles, news and pictures. The Editor would appreciate a postcard from anyone who has a manuscript or other item almost ready but likely to be a little late.



As another year is soon to come to a close, we wish to thank once again our regular contributors - Ralph Bell, Mabel Gill-espie, and Bob Yunick; and artists Carol Rudy, Dorothy Bordner and Connie Katholi; and our faithful indexer, Mary Schmid; and we are most grateful to all those who have contributed their efforts to EBBA News in the form of material, advice and assistance of all sorts.



Finally, a very Merry Christmas to all our readers ... and we wish you the best of happiness, good banding and all kinds of good fortune in the coming year.

