



We had the pleasure, for the first time, of joining Stanley Dickerson to cover his area for the Somerset County, N.J. Christmas Count. EBBA member Ted Pettit is compiler of this count. Birds seemed scarce, but the count had 64 species, about average, and Stanley and I were pleased to be able to contribute the only new species for the count:

a Saw-whet Owl found with its prey, a mouse, in a small, dense grove of pines across the road from a housing development. A rarer find, however, was 10 Pine Grosbeaks seen by Mr. Gosta Brunstrom and his party.



Another delightful and most gratifying experience - because of the very cordial welcome extended to old members - was attending the annual meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club in Philadelphia, our first in several years. The late John Gillespie, a founder of EBBA, was a long-time member of the DVOC whose members include a surprising number of EBBA members - at this meeting were John Dornan, Joe Cadbury, Dave Cutler, Ray Hendrick, Emil Berger, Will Middleton, Henry Armistead, George Hitchner, John Miller, Jim Woodford, and at least one other whose name I can't recall and to whom I apologise.



Mabel Warburton has announced that she is retiring as director of Island Beach Operation Recovery. Mabel has worked in IBOR since 1958 and in 1964 took up the cudgel of Director from Elise Dickerson who began IBOR. At time of writing we do not know who will now be in charge of IBOR but he will have to work hard to be the equal of his predecessors!



Dorothy Bordner's Christmas card bore a note, "no 'beaks today so I got some work done...have banded over 300 of them now. It's good to have the fighters around after two winters without them". For the uninitiated, "beaks" means Evening Grosbeaks.



This is the last issue of EBBA News you will receive if you have not paid your dues this year - so if you haven't already, be sure to send a check to Treasurer Elise Dickerson right away.



This issue contains exhortations to attend the annual meeting, and to complete and return the banding report form (see page 33). We hope every member who can, will do so. Participating in projects and meetings is what makes EBBA a meaningful association, rather than merely publisher of a journal. Every single, individual member is important, just as every voter was important in last November's close election. In fact, EBBA members are more important, because each has more to contribute than a mere vote.



Deadline for the next issue is Saturday, March 1. Mail to Long Valley is not speedy, so please send material for publication as far ahead of the deadline as possible.