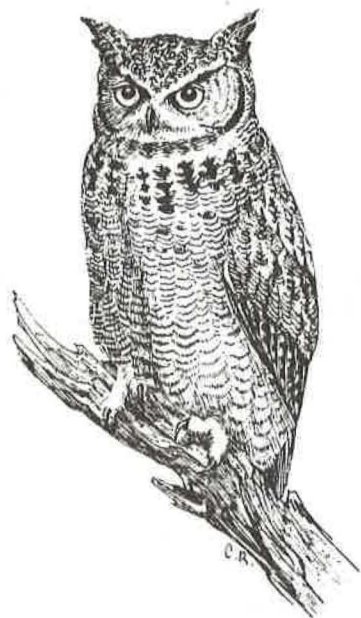


They not only band lots of birds but care for a wide variety of injured birds and animals. It was a fitting close to a memorable weekend.

--R.D. 1, Box 229, Clarksville, Pa. 15322



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to the tireless energy of my cooperator and sub-permittee, Dr. Virginia K. Pierce, more than 100 House Finches were banded on the East Side of Manhattan between February 4 and May 20, 1973. At the suggestion of Dr. Paul Munding of Rockefeller University, who is studying the development of song patterns in fringilids, all but the first few males in this series were also color-banded, with sequential combinations so that individuals can be identified at a distance.

Of course if EBBA Members retrap any of these birds they will be reported in the usual way through the Bird-banding Laboratory. But if banders see color-banded male House Finches which do not enter their traps, Dr. Pierce and I would be most grateful for a post-card report, describing the color combination. We shall respond to any such report with the bird's band number and the date of banding. The bands used on the first 70 (approx.) color-coded males were of anodized aluminum, slightly larger than the F&WS band. And in all our 1973 bandings, the F&WS band is on the left leg. I hope to hear from fellow EBBA members at the address below.

--GILBERT CANT, 445 East 68th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: HERRING GULLS

Herring Gulls ranging in age and color plumage from first year through fourth year are being individually marked at Groton and Stonington, Connecticut sanitary landfill areas. The gulls marked at the Groton dump have blaze orange dumb-bell shaped wing tags. The tags have a one-quarter inch black border with a black letter painted over the number, i.e.

A A

1-9 (through the letter (F)).

The letter-number system has been reversed with letters H through Z, i.e.

1 9

H-H (etc.)

Stonington gulls have blue wing tags with a one-quarter inch white border on the edge. The same letter-number sequence as Groton has been used (see above). The tags can be read with a spotting scope up to a distance of 100 yds.

Reports of sight records of these marked gulls would be greatly appreciated. Please include date, time and location of sighting, color of tag and letter-number series. The purpose is to study the patterns of behavior at the dumps, dispersal from the sites and along the Connecticut shore line, as well as nesting and roosting locations.

Reports should be sent to: Frank R. Haeni, Chief Naturalist
Thames Science Center
Center Gallows Lane
New London, Conn. 06320