

Besides eating, Bennie loved to bathe. Standing in the water, he would drink and then take a daily bath.

Bennie finally flew off for good, and I sure miss that bird. On last sight, he still had a tail feather missing and wore band number 1093-31322.

Contributed by: Gerald Church, Eaton, New York 13334.

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MS. MARSH HAWK CATCHES HER DINNER

By Dorothy Briggs

An hour before sunset on February 18, 1974 found my husband and me parked in the fields behind the Massachusetts Correctional Institute in Bridgewater. Soon two pairs of Marsh Hawks appeared and began harrying. One hovered low, then pounced upon some prey, perhaps a vole. This I've witnessed many times. What followed was new to me.

The other three hawks flew into a different section, where they put up about forty Meadowlarks. Most of these escaped by sailing low under the hawks, but one pair of the hawks worked together and cut off about eight Meadowlarks, who were then forced to fly back and forth between the harriers, who then narrowed the distance between themselves. The female singled out one bird, and in a matter of seconds she twisted and turned, extended her wings out like arms, batted the Meadowlark back and forth between them, and enwrapped it in her wings at about the same time she hit the ground and grabbed it with her talons. Madam Circus cyaneus had her dinner. We drove home and took two steaks out of the freezer.

--11 Carpenter Street, Middleboro, Mass. 02346

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the preparation for my duties as President, I have been "thumbing" through a bound volume of EBBA correspondence dated 1923-1937. This was placed in my care by the late Eleanor Dater.

First in order, is a much pencilled "work copy" of our Constitution and By-Laws. This is followed by letters of hopes and concerns "over" such signatures as Arthur Allen, Rudyard Boulton, Prentis Baldwin, Beecher Bowdish, A.K. Fisher, John Gillespie, Munsell Crosby, Charles White, William Pepper, Ray Middleton, Gilbert Pierson and Frederick Lincoln, just to name a few, the real Who's Who of the Bird Banding movement in the United States. It reads as an exciting account of the concerned citizens' effort...the endless meetings and correspondence, the tireless work that went toward building the ethics and the national banding program which was later integrated as part of the Bureau of Biological Survey. A light moment is shared in a letter from a young lawyer to Munsell Crosby of the Linnaean Society....Franklin D. Roosevelt, later President of the United States, expressed that he and his son Elliot, age 12, "would be interested in learning 'trapping'." Most of the historical correspondence deals with the serious concern for improved COMMUNICATION, membership and finances.

As I write, I'm looking over the mirror surface of the lake in front of our summer cottage....it's a beautiful reflection of early fall colors mixed with the sounds of a "bossy" nut-hatch and "hot" Cicadas, punctuated by the "popping" of Blue Gills as they come to the surface. This is Nature's prelude to the passing of summer, a proper "accompaniment" to the concerns I have for EBBA. As of this hour we are still faced with the historical concerns of our FOUNDERS! Especially improved communication with our membership.

Please take some time to CORRESPOND with your Officers and Committees...let's start things happening! What are some of your banding activities? What are you doing with your data? What are you doing with your backyard banding data? Do you have articles "tucked away inside" that you need help with getting on paper? Do you have articles you want reviewed? The Publication Committee is standing by to help you! Do you have a project idea you want help in developing? The Education Committee is ready to help! Do you have a site that the Conservation Committee can help you clear for a banding location or a permanent EBBA Research Center?

When was the last time you wrote the EBBA President? The future direction of EBBA is our MUTUAL CONCERN! Please SHARE your THOUGHTS!

--Christopher N. Rose, Sr., President
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