



EBBA NUS

A FRIENDLY REPORT ISSUED MONTHLY TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

Members In

Florida, Georgia, South Carolina,
North Carolina,, Virginia, Mary-
land, Delaware, District of Colum-
bia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey,
New York, and other States and
in Canada.

SEPTEMBER, 1941

"LET US GET TOGETHER"

VOL. 4, NO. 9

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Secretary: Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.
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DROP OVER - SOME TIME

A young married couple, lonely in a strange little town, hit on an amusing plan to make acquaintances. Occasionally of an evening they would stroll down thru the shopping section. Walking from one end to the other, with discretion they would bid passersby, a good evening, in turn. At the end of a complete tour of the section, the one which received the most acknowledgments was treated by the other to ice-cream out of his or her allowance. Crazy, you may snort, - and totally unrelated to bird banding. Granted, yet fundamentally it goes right to the heart of one of the bander's greatest faults. A fear of being friendly.

All too often an enthusiastic bander finds that his interest in ornithology is looked upon askance, sometimes with derision, by his circle of friends. His favorite topic of conversation apparently bores his intimates, who seldom have a similar interest. They good-naturedly tease and ask him difficult questions. Sensitive, yet loyal to his interest, the bird student crawls into his shell, indulges himself with ornithological books, becomes self-conscious of his lack of knowledge, and ends up, somewhat of a lone eagle --- afraid to make friends with people known to have similar interests. This state of affairs should not be. It is a drag on the progress of avian learning. Be friendly within reason. Overdo nothing.

It is one of the primary aims of EBBA NUS and the entire association to promote a spirit of friendliness among its members. Won't you help. We'll wager that among 100 banders and 100 people chosen at random, you'll find more folks who will be proud to call friends among the banders than among other numerical-like groups. Some people are attracted to one sort and some to others but all in all, banders are "jest folks". "Ye Editor" has met scores and has never yet been disappointed. We don't think you will be either; try it - be friendly.

Now and then, we hear that someone has written some other bander or some bander has heard from another member telling him how they have solved a banding problem. It makes us glad to know that Eastern and this medium has been instrumental in bringing two strangers with a common interest, together. All of which brings us to a postal received recently - one which makes us feel good all over. In part the postal reads:

"Mrs. Daley read about me in the NUS and kindly invited me to visit her station at Oliverrea, 36 miles from here."

May we paraphrase a poet of distinction:

"It is not your traps, your catch, nor your records as a whole,
It's the everlasting cooperation of every banding soul."

Let us band together. Let's be more friendly. Won't you ask your nearest neighboring bander to "Drop over - sometime, and make it soon".

BIRD BANDING WANTS ARTICLES

James L. Peters, Editor of BIRD BANDING has issued an appeal for articles. Due to the decrease in the number of foreign ornithological magazines reaching this country, the Review Section of BIRD BANDING is much reduced, leaving more room for original articles. Banders are earnestly requested to write the work at their stations and submit articles to Mr. Peters for publication.

THE COOPERATIVE JUNCO STUDY

Half a dozen Junco reports reached Dr. Worth within two weeks of the appeal published in the August issue of EBBA NUS. Such prompt cooperation is a fine tribute to the spirit now existing in our ranks. Those who have not yet assembled their Junco data are asked to do so as soon as possible, as it is desired to begin compilation of the various contributions not later than November 1.

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

Dr. Worth, our President, will speak to the Linnaean Society (New York) on his work with dead birds on October 14. Most of the "Cases" to be discussed are dead birds submitted for post mortem examination by members of our association.

Richard Fischer, reporting on his summer's work at Beaver Kill, N.Y. states that he banded 515 new birds while on his vacation, completed a new 6-cell Brenckle and was able to band 108 Cliff Swallows in the colony he found as mentioned in the August issue.

Thanks to Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa., our collection of post-cards picturing gulls is growing apace. Early in July, one from the good doctor at Rehoboth Beach, Del., reports "No Herring Gulls in the harbor and few along the ocean." Since then several more cards have arrived with breezy comments, but it is the latest one that has us concerned. This one dated Aug. 23rd is from Gloucester, Mass., (How that man does get around!) More Gulls. While the Doctor's Spencerian is usually very clear, this card must have traveled by an ocean route or could the doctor be suffering from "mal de mer". We can't decipher whether the good doctor is laughing at the gulls, seeing laughing gulls or laughing at the girls. My, doctor, this card gives us quite a tern...but as the doctor would say, "That will be enough of that." Yes, Doctor. We quite agree. Please send some more cards.

Several members have suggested we have another regional meeting for the Long Island and southern New York State members. Tentative arrangements are now being made and if any banders in this section have any suggestions please send them in. The program as suggested will include a showing of the kodachromes taken by Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Miller during the summer and a five minute report from each member present on his banding activities during the past season. The regional meeting will take place in late October or early November as now planned.

A limited quantity of back numbers of EBBA NUS is available. Any member who desires to complete his file may obtain copies by writing the editor and enclosing 5¢ in stamps per copy to cover the cost of mailing.

EBBA suggests that members consult back copies of Ebba Nus for timely hints on baits at this time of the year. A weed common throughout the east and familiarly known as "ink-berry" has been found remarkably attractive for Catbirds, Thrashers and all members of the Thrush family. These berries should be picked in "sprays" and hung inside the traps like a bunch of grapes for best results. At the beginning of cold weather move the traps so that they are in a position to get the morning sun. Such small tricks pay dividends in more birds banded.

Bander F. W. Trevor, of Millbrook, N. Y. reports a Snow Bunting banded Jan. 20, '41 recovered on a British ship 20 miles from Iceland on April 18, '41.

APPLYING COLORED BANDS

In answer to a query in a previous issue, Mr. G. A. Dumont of Pequannock, N.J. sends us the following information:

"As regards placing of colored bands on birds, while we have not done much in this line, we seemed to have little trouble and I generally put them on myself. This is how it is done -- we practically flatten the bands out, that is to say, unroll them. The heat from the fingers, I believe, causes them to stay at least partially uncoiled so that one can with one hand - that is thumb and forefinger - place it around the bird's leg and gradually bring the band around the leg. Of course, it will be rather loosely coiled but this is remedied by simply rolling the band around and around after it has been placed on the leg and exerting pressure on the band with the fingers." Simple, isn't it? "Ye Editor" with his two pair of hands and Dr. Wood with his eye dropper will now take their encumbrances under their arm and find nice big brown leaves to crawl under. Yes, Doctor. Why didn't we think of that?

INDEX TO BIRD BANDING - VOLUMES 7, 8 & 9

"Subscribers to BIRD BANDING will be glad to hear that an Index to volumes 7, 8 and 9 has been prepared by Maurice Broun and will be distributed with one of the regular issues of the quarterly as soon as funds are raised to pay for the costs involved. The work has been done at minimal expense, and a small contribution from each member of the three banding organizations would easily bring the index off the press. Considering the value of such an aid to bird banders, the donation required is trivial. I urge every EBBA member to give in proportion to his ability - even a dime will help. The total required is about two hundred and fifty dollars."

C. Brooke Worth, M.D.
President, E. B. B. A.

TELLING FOLKS ABOUT BANDING

On the invitation of Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, president of the Chautauqua Bird Club, one of our members, Russel L. Richards, gave a talk on bird-banding and distributed over 400 of the reprints of the article published in Turtox News last January. The meeting was attended by people from all over the United States. Each such talk increases the chances that if one of your banded birds is found it will be correctly reported to the proper place.

NEW MEMBERS

Since the roll call of the three organizations was published in July by Bird Banding we are proud to introduce and welcome the following new members to our organization:

Leonard K. Beyer, 75 Prospect St., Mansfield, Pa.
Patrick Branigan, 1230 Quincy St. N.E., Washington, D. C.
Leon D. Cool, Jr., Tremont Gardens, Falls Church, Va.
Mrs. Florence K. Daley, Oliveria P.O., Ulster County, N. Y.
Stanley Grierson, 44 Sunrise Ave., Katonah, N. Y.
Helen Norrison Howie, 1820 DeKalb St., Norristown, Pa.
Howard P. Mahnken, 8921 Shore Court, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Miss Marguerite E. Morrow, 6032 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Bennett K. Matlack, Bridgeton, N. J.
Thomas R. Paxton III, 1064 East Clifton Rd., Atlanta, Ga.
Mrs. O. C. Waters, 11 Kensington Drive, Avondale Estates, Ga.
L. B. Williams, 6 New Town Lane, The Crescent, Charleston, S. C.

YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE THE CAKE

Of all the interesting things that the mail-man has placed in our mail box of late, a package containing what its creator called "A Bird Biscuit" has been the most entertaining. This biscuit, resembling an under-size loaf of home-made raisin bread, wrapped in heavy waxed paper, looked good enough to eat, filled as it was with seeds, raisins and possibly nuts, all wound 'round with a piece of string. The accompanying letter from the chef of this concoction, none other than our hard-working treasurer, Robert K. Ungemah of White Plains, N.Y., asked us to unwind the string, hang the biscuit up on a tree limb and test it out on the birds.

Resisting a strong temptation to try a slice with butter and a cup of tea, we followed directions. Within a day, a pair of chickadees gave the biscuit a whirl...and we do mean a whirl! One chickadee would land on the "biscuit" and go spinning around with it on the end of the string. Just as soon as it slowed down and the first chickadee got in a couple of good bites, his sibling would land on the other side and they'd all go spinning around again. If only our treasurer can rig up a brass ring attachment, he has a perfect avian merry-go-round,---but, do the birds like it!

A week has passed since the "biscuit" was hung. Now there is nothing but the string, - guess the orioles would take that too, if it were earlier in the season. During nearly every daylight hour the chickadees have enjoyed this treat. Their amusing antics have caused no little envy and awe from such neighbors as Catbirds, Jays, Thrashers, Sparrows and Towhees. These have interestedly watched the "goings-on" from the ground or some nearby limb. When the chickadees occasionally dropped a crumb to the ground, the rush of hungry birds that ensued could only be duplicated around some of the better hosiery counters.

Yes sir....Bander Ungemah has a real bird attraction in this biscuit. Fun for both birds and bird lovers, - but we don't think much of the name. Here's your chance to take a cake. On our own responsibility, we suggest that the banders think up a better name for this bird dainty --- like "Chickadee's Delight". Send your suggestion on a postal to our treasurer. To the bander suggesting the best name he will send a brand new cake. In case of a tie, duplicate prizes will be awarded.

NEWS FOR THE BANDERS

Donald Wylie, formerly of New York City, began banding operations at Montvale, N.J. this month. This should be an interesting banding area as at least two banders have formerly worked there for several years.

George Dock, Jr. of Scarsdale, N.Y. sends interesting news. A Blue Jay banded by him, as a bird of the year, on Sept. 5, 1940 was reported by the Survey as being found on April 5, 1941, at Elkin, North Carolina. Mr. Dock writes, "I cannot find Elkin, N.C. on any map. If the town's name is Elkton, it is at least 500 miles from Scarsdale and represents one of the longer Blue Jay migratory flights so far disclosed by banding...This bird bears out a surmise made in the recent co-operative article gathered by the Eastern members and published in Bird Banding. This thought stressed the idea that it was mostly the younger birds that make the longer Blue Jay flights." What can't be done by COOPERATION???

Howard Mahnken of Brooklyn, N.Y. asks if we have an "English Sparrow Problem"? The answer is yes, occasionally. Mr. Mahnken wants to know what we do about it and whether Eastern offers any advice on the subject? The humane way to control these pests is to take them out of the traps with a thumb under one wing and the second finger under the opposite wing and press until the bird slowly goes to sleep. This method is effective and final.

NEWS FOR THE BIRD BANDERS

Raymond T. Fuller, of Winterton, N.Y. would like to know if any member has any bird traps for loan or sale. Possibly some member who traps in the north in the summer and south in the winter could make arrangements with Mr. Fuller so that the traps could be in use while the bander was away from his northern stand. Mr. Fuller has a sanctuary of several acres and never seems able to have enough traps. Incidentally, Mr. Fuller is the author of several interesting nature books. He has given several talks locally on the subject of banding and would be interested in procuring slides or motion picture reels depicting this subject. He reports that it is an unusual year for Waxwings in his area and that he has discovered a small colony of Upland Plovers.

At the Central High School, Wadsworth, Ohio, there is a large chimney where Swifts stop each fall and spring. While Russell Richards was teaching there some years ago he caught 619 on one day. He writes, "The trap may still be in the attic. Have some near-by bander there look into the matter". "Ye Editor" has notified the secretary of the Inland, as Ohio is in their territory, and hopes that some bander will put this equipment to use. A case of first come- first served. Anyone else know of any equipment not in use?

Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. reports some interesting recoveries. Among these is a Chestnut-sided Warbler, banded May 7, 1940 "came down a chimney" the following April at Nashville, Tenn.; A Sparrow Hawk banded in April, 1939 was electrocuted by a power line in November, 1940 at Loris, S.C.; A Blue Jay banded May 25, 1939 died June 9, 1941 at Yonkers, N.Y. Two other Jays were found dead in New Jersey about a year after banding. To add to these recoveries on Blue Jays, a report of an immature Jay banded in Huntington, L.I., N.Y. during August has just been received from Washington, stating that this young Jay was found dead in Maryland in the following November. Further evidence of a migration of these youngsters!

Hobart Van Deusen of Upper Montclair, N.J. hopes to get in some good banding at Assateague Island, Md. sometime this month.

SPARROW RETURNS AND RECOVERIES

Edwin A. Mason of Groton, Mass. reports that a White Throated Sparrow banded by him in Oct., 1939 was found dead at Mt. Horne, Texas on Jan. 28, 1940. As far as is known this is the only recovery out of 426 such birds banded over a period of ten years. No White Throats returned.

Making a somewhat similar report, Mrs. G. A. Dumont of Pequannock, N.J., writes that at the close of the 1940 season, her station had banded 1,119 White Throated Sparrows with not a single return or recovery in 9 years. In the same period Mrs. Dumont has banded 1,550 Song Sparrows bringing her 150 returns. 1,498 banded Tree Sparrows brought 315 returns. EBBA considers these bare statistics very interesting. It is becoming increasingly plain that of all the sparrow family, Tree Sparrows consistently give a high ratio of returns, while White Throats seem to give a very low ratio.

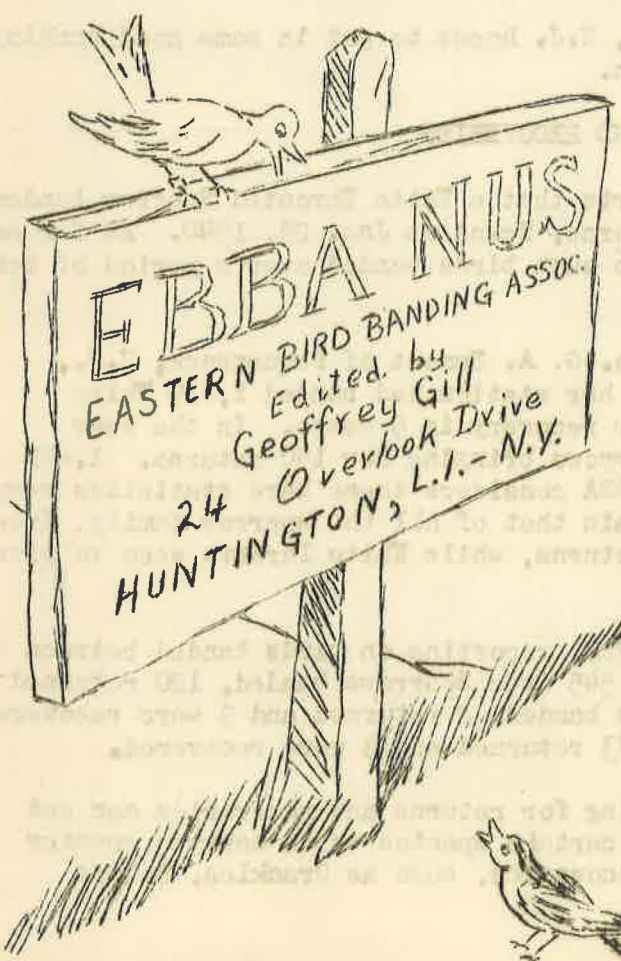
Raymond J. Middleton of Norristown, Pa., reporting on birds banded between July 1, 1921 to Jan. 1, 1941, states that of 545 Tree Sparrows banded, 120 returned and 2 were recovered. Of 4,019 White Throats banded, 2 returned and 9 were recovered elsewhere. Of 2,112 Song Sparrows banded, 173 returned and 3 were recovered.

From the above figures, banders looking for returns and recoveries can get a general idea. On the other hand there are certain species which carry a greater chance of the bander receiving returns and recoveries, such as Grackles, Robins and Catbirds, etc.



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Sec. 562 P. L. & R.



Mr. Dayton Stoner
New York State Museum
Albany
New York

