

D. Stoner
Recd. 10/29/42

EBBA NUS

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

REACHING
OVER
375
BANDERS
EVERY MONTH

October, 1942

"LET US BAND TOGETHER"

Vol. 5, No. 10

President: Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.
Secretary: Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.
Treasurer: Robert K. Ungemah, 10 Jackson Avenue, White Plains, N. Y.
Editor: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L. I., N. Y.

A SPLENDID "PLUG" FOR MORE RECOVERIES

In the "Out In The Open" column of the "Newark News" of September 1st, Beecher S. Bowdish of Demarest, N.J. engineered a fine piece of publicity to further the recovery of banded birds. Following a plea by the N. J. State Fish and Game Commission for assistance in rescuing shore birds crippled by oil in the waters along the shore, Mr. Bowdish has a splendid article drawing attention to the reporting of banded birds when found. He gives explicit directions and suggests contacting the nearest bander when known. Under a heading "Where do the Birds Go?" he gives the reader a brief idea of the banding movement and then cites some interesting recoveries of birds from his station. Of these recoveries, not already mentioned in the "NUS" we select the following:

Purple Grackle, banded Oct. 28, 1935, found wounded May, 1942 by Rev. Chas. W. Taylor at Hicksville, L.I., N.Y. and later died. (This spot is just 12 miles west of the home of EBBA NUS).

Bronze Grackle, banded Oct. 10, 1940 shot at Montvale, N.J., Oct. 23, 1941 and reported to the banding station of Dr. H. C. Gardinier of Montvale.

Bronze Grackle, banded Oct. 10, 1940 found dead at Verona, N.J., May 4, 1942 by Anthony Robbins of Pompton Plains.

NEWS FOR THE BANDERS

Howard Mahnken of Brooklyn is now in the Coast Guard and stationed at New London, Conn. He closed his banding station on September 24th, just as the Olive Backed Thrushes were coming to his traps.

Dr. Dayton Stoner of Albany had a fine illustrated banding article in the August issue of "The Scientific Monthly". The paper is based on his and Mrs. Stoner's splendid work with Bank Swallows.

The Audubon Bird Hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia opened to the public this month has a bird banding exhibit. The Pennsylvania State Museum and the Providence (R.I.) Museum also have banding exhibits.

Dr. Harold B. Wood of Harrisburg, Pa. was author of a fine illustrated banding article in the September issue of "The Pennsylvania Game News".

It is suggested that at the close of the banding rush, banders give their traps a coat of paint. It may be a great deal harder to get new material for traps soon and we should all take care of what we have.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

When Dr. C. Brooke Worth, our president was called to the colors, he realized that before the present unpleasantness is over, other officers of our group might also be called, and so hamper the continuation of our very pleasant cooperation. Therefore, he appointed the remaining officers and one or two others as a Board of Directors. These banders were to elect other members by vote until there existed a substantial Board of nine members. This Board was to elect one of their members as President, pro tem. After many such ballots by mail, ably handled by our Secretary, Horace Groskin, Dr. Harold B. Wood was elected to this office. The final voting on the Board of Directors ended too late to be announced in our September issue and the result is given herewith:

Beecher S. Bowdish, Demarest, N. J.
George Dock, Jr., 119 Brite Ave., Scarsdale, N.Y.
Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Dr., Huntington, L.I., N.Y.
Horace Groskin, 210 Glenn Road, Ardmore, Pa.
Raymond J. Middleton, Jeffersonville, Pa.
Jesse V. Miller, 1533 Lowell Ave., New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y.
Robert K. Ungemah, 10 Jackson Ave., White Plains, N.Y.
LeRoy Wilcox, Box 16, Speonk, Long Island, N.Y.
Dr. Harold B. Wood, 3016 North 2nd St., Harrisburg, Pa.

THE CARE OF CRIPPLED BIRDS

Stanley Grierson of Katonah, N.Y. apparently has a way with crippled birds. EBBA hopes to get some detailed instructions for a future issue so that all banders will be able to care for such unfortunates when they are brought to us. A news-item in the N. Y. SUN relates how Grierson cared for a Black-crowned Night Heron found with a broken wing that had healed upside down. In a recent letter answering our query as to how he housed summer birds through the winter, he writes:

"We have an excellent spot under our sunporch, with a dirt floor and window, which adjoins the cellar and is always warm. The birds I have kept there seem to thrive very well. Last year, I found a Little Green Heron that had been injured just before migrating and I kept him all winter. He became cured and well fattened. When the lakes thawed in the Spring, my father took a movie of me banding and releasing the bird at Muscote Reservoir, near Katonah.

"In 1940, a young Black-crowned Night Heron with a broken wing which had healed in an upside-down position was found in the fall. Of course, he could neither fly nor migrate. I spent the winter getting fish for him. In-as-much as this bird had figured in the news and on the radio, people wanted to see him, so in the following Spring I took him to the museum at Bear Mt. Park. Just before I brought him home again in the fall, a visitor threw him something to eat which killed him."

ANOTHER STATION CLOSED

Thomas P. McElroy, Jr. of West Chester, Pa., announces the closing of his banding station as he marches off to war. "The records show", he writes, "that both the number of species and the number of birds banded has increased steadily since the summer of 1940 when I banded my first bird." When the victory is won Mr. and Mrs. McElroy plan to continue with banding. A report of the work of the station is enclosed with their letter and shows that they have banded 16 species since Jan. 1st. Among their many avian friends was a Chickadee called "Stumpy", who lost his tail. EBBA will tell you about it next month.

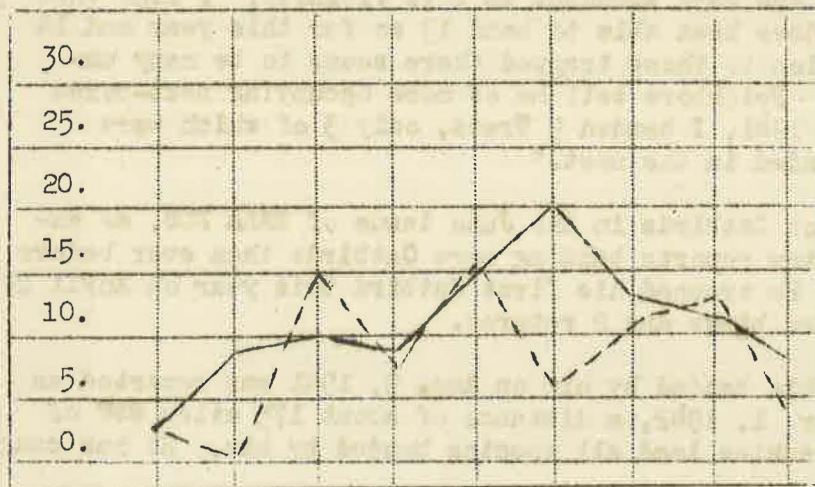
SOME DATA ON SEX OF N.J. TOWHEES

Mrs. Marie Dumont of Pequannock, N.J., has submitted considerable data on Towhees banded at her station since she started banding in October, 1932. No Towhees were banded until the spring of '33, but from that time up until Aug. 29, 1942 she banded 461. This grand total is broken down as follows: Males, adult 101, Imm. 158, a total of 259 males; as against Females, adult 78, Imm. 124, a total of 202 females.

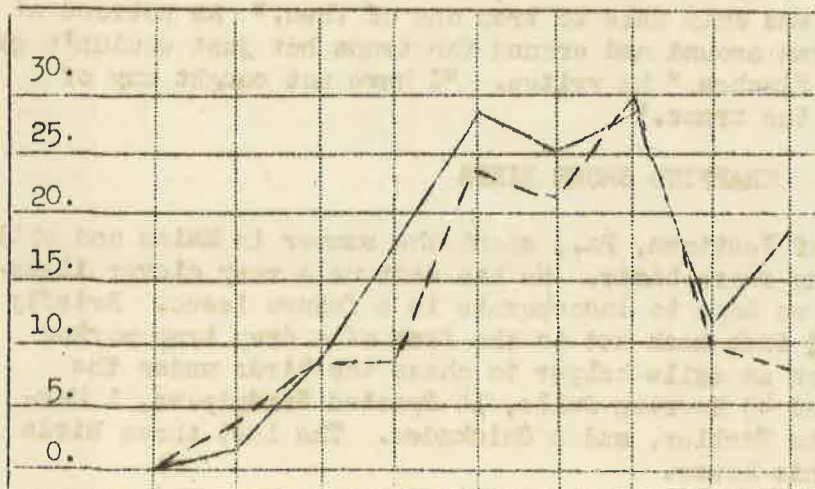
From a total of 424 Towhees banded previous to 1942, 27 individuals have returned in subsequent years. Of these birds returning, 20 of them have been males, 12 banded as adults and 8 as immatures, and 7 have been females, 6 banded as adults and 1 as immature. These records show almost three times as many males returning as females. However, of the Towhees which returned twice, matters are more even, there being 5 males to 5 females. Her record of returns further show that the four oldest birds, being not less than 4 years old, are all females.

Another interesting fact brought out by these 27 return records is that while the majority of them were originally banded in July, August and Sept., probably at the close of the nesting season, most of these birds were taken in the traps as returns the following year in April and May, previous to the nesting season. Of the 6 birds banded in May and June which returned, only 2 returned before the close of the nesting season, while of the 21 birds banded in July, Aug., and Sept. which returned, 19 of them were taken in the traps the following Spring.

Year: 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41



Year: 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41



It is assumed that during this ten year period the trapping equipment was much the same and the element of chance, a factor in all bird trapping, was constant. It would seem possible that at times there are more males than females in a local Towhee population. On the other hand, Mrs. Dumont's data may only prove that the females of this species are more wary of traps than the males.

Two charts are shown depicting the total catch of Towhees each year. The solid line represents the males trapped and the broken line the females. The top chart represents the adults of both sex and the bottom one the young birds of both sex.

With this data as a starting point it would be interesting to compare the records of Towhee catches at other stations not alone as to the sex ratio but as to the peaks of abundance found at this N.J. station as shown on this chart. If others have high peaks in the same years it would greatly substantiate this data and assist in showing that trapping facilities were constant throughout the period.

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP ALL BANDERS

With millions of birds now banded, the number of banded birds found at a distance from their place of banding is still disappointingly small. Our only way to overcome this difficulty is through education of the general public. Published articles, banding talks, especially to school children, all help, but a Pennsylvanian suggests another way. He suggests that any bander living near a small museum, and there are lots of them around the country, see that some arrangements are made to display in this museum, an exhibit on bird banding. This can be usually worked out with the museum officials. Care should be taken to have every item accurate and neat. Good clear photographs, possibly a map and one or two old bands that have been taken off recovered birds, concise and clear lettering on the exhibits are all that is necessary. Remember a small exhibit is better than none. We doubt whether traps themselves should be displayed but certainly instructions as to what anyone should do if they find a banded bird, should be emphasized. If you succeed in arranging such a display won't you tell us about it? One has been arranged at Providence, R.I., and we would like to hear of more.

BIRDS PLENTIFUL IN DELAWARE

Harry S. Bristow, Jr., of Cedars, Del., reports birds are abundant at his banding station, especially during this past spring. (We wondered where they all were - Now it appears we know.) Reporting on his banding from Mar. 1, 1941 to July 31, 1942 he lists the banding of 859 birds of 25 species.

He writes, "House Wrens are very abundant in this vicinity. I find them hard to trap. Despite this, I have been able to band 19 so far this year and 14 of these were adults. In addition to those trapped there seems to be many unbanded birds around my station. Neighbors tell me of more occupying nest-boxes this year than in 1941. During 1941, I banded 9 Wrens, only 3 of which were trapped adults, others being banded in the nest."

Referring to a comment on Catbirds in the June issue of EBBA NUS, as experienced by Dr. Wood, Mr. Bristow reports banding more Catbirds than ever before in the first two weeks in May. He trapped his first Catbird this year on April 29 and by May 18th had caught 19 new birds and 2 returns.

An immature Purple Grackle banded by him on Aug. 9, 1941 was reported as shot near Surry, Virginia on Apr. 1, 1942, a distance of about 175 miles SSW of his banding station. Purple Grackles lead all species banded by him. He has caught over 300 of them.

Wood Thrushes have been very numerous around his station. "It literally rained these birds here, but I was only able to trap one of them." As noticed at other stations, Wood Thrushes ran around and around the traps but just wouldn't go in. "The same is true of Gold finches," he writes. "I have not caught any of these, yet they perch all over the traps."

TRAPPING SHORE BIRDS

Albert L. Bailey, III of Westtown, Pa., spent the summer in Maine and while there tried his hand at trapping shore birds. He has sent us a very clever illustration of his equipment which we hope to incorporate in a future issue. Briefly the trap consisted of a large $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mesh net in the form of a drop trap worked from a blind. He also relied on an agile helper to chase the birds under the trap. His summer total included 43 Herring Gulls, 14 Spotted Sandpipers, 1 Magnolia Warbler, 1 Black and White Warbler, and a Chickadee. The last three birds were caught after flying into his house.

SOME STATISTICS ON CATBIRDS - Banded in 1927 to 1941 - 14 years - at the banding stations of Dr. H. B. Wood, Harrisburg, Pa., and G. Gill, Huntington, L.I., N. Y.-
A grand total of 1683 individuals considered.

Months Banded	WOOD		GILL	
	Ads	Im	Ads	Im
Apr.	2	-	0	-
May	69	-	204	-
June	15	6	77	1
July ***	9	30	55	164
Aug. ***	9	16	60	524
Sept.	16	3	175	113
Oct.	1	0	16	2
Total	118	55	587	804
		WOOD	GILL	
Nestlings Banded		35	84	
No. of Nests		12	25	
4 yg in nest		4	13	
3 yg in nest		4	8	
2 yg in nest		3	4	
1 yg in nest		1	0	

* A return - 1st Catbird caught each season is usually a banded bird.

** A Catbird banded July 28, '30 in Rhode Island by Wood was found March 9, '31 at Warthen, Georgia.

*** Wood's station at Harrisburg was closed in July & Aug. during 5 seasons while banding at Rhode Is.

	WOOD	GILL	
Earliest Catch	4/30/38	5/1/39*	
Av. Spring Date	May 4	May 5	
Latest Catch	10/11/39	10/11/41	
Av. Fall Date	Sept 15	Sept 15	
RECOVERIES	WOOD	GILL	
Found within a mile of Sta.	Ads.	4	11
	Im.	2	3
	Nestlgs.	1	0
Found after a migration	1	12	
Found 20 to 30 miles from Sta.	0	2	
Distant Recoveries**	0	0	
RETURNS	WOOD	GILL	
Ads.	14	80	
Im.	4	54	
Nestlg.	0	1	
Total	18	135	
Returned - 1st yr	16	108	
2nd yr	7	54	
3rd yr	0	17	
4th yr	0	11	
5th yr	1	3	
6th yr	0	3	

While the data shown is not sensational, it does show some interesting comparisons, between stations, one situated in a metropolitan area (WOOD) and the other in a suburban area (GILL). It will be noted that the percentage of eggs hatching, allowing as an average 4 to a nest, is very high. About 75% for Wood and 84% for Gill. Distant recoveries are scarce at both stations. The death rate according to nearby recoveries the same year as banding is much higher in the metropolitan area than in the suburban area. This may be due to better banding education of the public or more difficulties for birds in a heavier populated area. Both stations show that about 1 out of 7 adults return and 1 out of 15 im. return approximately.

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Prof. Peyton Stoner
New York State Museum
Albany, New York



"I am of
interest to the Government
and all banders because
I wear a band and am
now registered at
Washington, D.C."

Edbs Nbs
24 Overlook Dr.
HUNTINGTON, I.-W.V.



Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

Report a dead bird wearing a band, when found, to

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

"BUY DEFENSE BONDS"

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