

Ebba News

EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR
BETTER BANDING
IN '51

JANUARY 1951

Published Monthly by

THE EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

EBBA NEWS

Published Monthly by
THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

"Let Us Band Together"

\$2.00 per year

Vol. 14

January 1951

No. 1

President

Horace Groskin

210 Glenn Road

Ardmore, Pa.

Secretary & Editor

R. O. Bender

R.D. 1

Bridgeton, N. J.

Treasurer

Merrill Wood

811 N. Allen St.

State College, Pa.

Vice-Presidents

Geoffrey Gill

Raymond J. Middleton

Raymond T. Fuller

Councillors

(Term ending 1950)

Mrs. Herbert E. Carnes

Charles E. Mohr

John A. Gillespie

(Term ending 1951)

Rev. Edward Stoehr

Dr. Harold B. Wood

Leroy Wilcox

(Term ending 1952)

Mrs. Louise DeKiriline Lawrence

Joseph M. Cadbury

John H. Buckalew

Publication Committee

Raymond J. Middleton

Raymond T. Fuller

Leroy Wilcox

January 1951

EBBA NEWS

Page 2

ANNUAL MEETING

The program for the meeting is now shaping up quite rapidly. There will be papers by Charles E. Blake, President of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, E. A. Bergstrom who has been recently appointed Editor of Bird-Banding, Dr. David E. Davis of Johns Hopkins University, Mr. Arthur E. Fast, Dr. Carleton M. Herman and others. We still have room for a few more papers so if you have the material drop the Secretary a note. Be sure to mention the time required and whether you will wish to use a projector or not.

NEW MEMBERS

EBBA is in need of more members. If you have a friend who is a bander but not a member try your salesmanship. More members = better EBBA News and better meetings. Incidentally, if you have forgotten to send your 1951 dues to our Treasurer - Merrill Wood, 811 N. Allen St., State College, Pa. - do it now.

OLD AGE RECORD

G. Hapgood Parks sent in the following note: "Today we trapped a return Northern White-Breasted Nuthatch which supplies us with an old-age record for this species which exceeds that included in the list which EBBA News published a few years back. This bird was banded as an adult male on November 15, 1942 with band No. 41-161722. He wore this band for almost one month more than eight years and, judging by his sprightliness, he seems destined to add measurably to the age record he has already set."

EVENING GROSBEEK NEWS

The Shaubs of Northampton, Mass. sent a copy of "Evening Grosbeak Survey News" to the News. It is a fine example of the kind of cooperative study which the News believes represents the ordinary banders greatest opportunity to contribute to ornithological knowledge. More power to the Evening Grosbeak Survey Group.

NOTE FROM IOWA

Mr. M. L. Jones of Ledges State Park, Iowa contributes the following interesting letter:

"I am trying to compile and summarize my bird banding going back to 1933. It's interesting but time consuming. I have written up a little on Junco results here in Iowa where I have banded them hit and miss over seven or eight counties. Mostly, however, I concentrated where I lived, which was in Calhoun Co. for the 1933 - '39 period. Fremont Co. 1940 to 2½ years later, then the last period in Boone County (1944 - 1950)

"During 18 years of banding I find that I have banded 8821 birds of 112 species. I have 17 recoveries, eleven of them out of state and two from Canada, one from Honduras.

"I have given quite a bit of attention to the mechanics of trapping, taking special pride in going after a certain species. I once transported water weekly by horse-back to an isolated set in order to catch a Yellow-Breasted Chat (very rare in this area). By both luck and patience I succeeded in capturing the Chat - the only bird I ever captured at that particular location - and it was an automatic trap.

"I am making copies for the Bird Banding Magazine, the EBBA and IBB as well as submitting an article to our local "Iowa Bird Life" magazine. I need to work up a little local interest in banding. Most Iowa banders are not banding much. Most of the permits are college deals and are used only on some special problem, which in many cases gets but a half dozen birds banded in a year. I tried to cooperate with one fellow on a Tree Sparrow study. He banded one Tree Sparrow.

"It must be much more interesting in the East where you have more operators."

Many EBBA members would be interested in Mr. Jones' experiences with the mechanics of capturing unusual birds. Your Editor has written him asking him to write them up for the News.

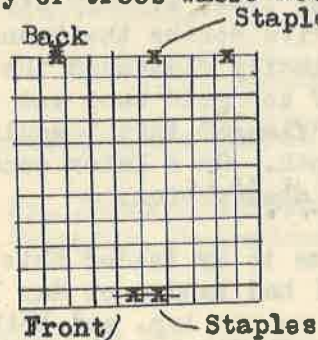
BANDING ROBINS

Mr. Fast wasn't banding as many as he thought he would, so he wrote to an expert, Mr. Irwin Sturgis of Lafayette, Ind. for advice. Mr. Sturgis' reply was forwarded to the News by Mr. Fast. Although too long to quote in entirety in one issue it is of sufficient interest to bring to your attention. Mr. Sturgis writes:

"I have best results by using very crude type traps operated by the figure 4 support as described on page 16 of the new 1947 manual for bird banders. I use a longer horizontal bar than the manual describes. The one I use comes to within about 1/2 inch of the back of the trap. The back part of this bar rests on the ground and the front part that attaches to the other parts of the figure 4 is about 2-1/4 inches above ground.

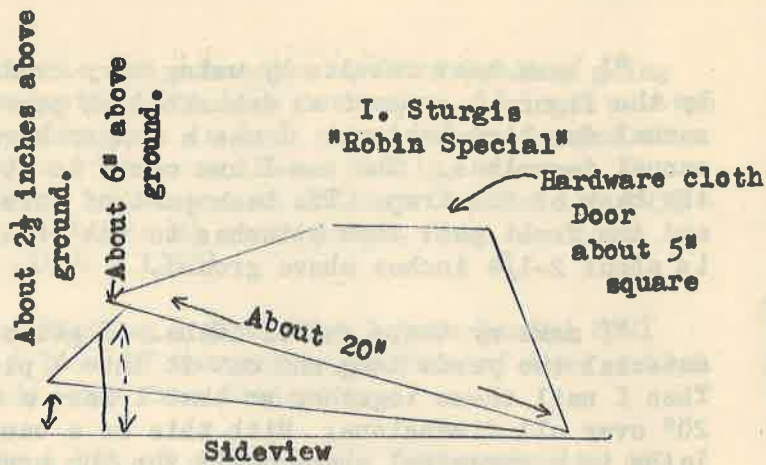
"I make my traps out of laths. I get a piece of 1" x 2" material two yards long and cut it into 4 pieces 18" in length. Then I nail these together so that I have a rectangle 18" by about 20" over all dimensions. With this as a base I begin nailing on laths in a pyramidal shape until the top opening is about 5" on the side. Each round of laths should slightly overlap the round beneath it. It will take about seven rounds of laths to reach this top size. When this is reached I take a piece of hardware cloth and staple it to the back of the top. I drive two staples through the front lath in such a way that the staples will be on each side of one of the meshes when closed. I fasten this with a safety pin. When a bird is caught this pin is unsnapped, the door raised, and the bird removed through this door. Be sure to keep door covered with other hand while trying to catch a bird; otherwise some will escape around the arm while trying to catch them. I slip a piece of newspaper under the hardware cloth before I raise it up high enough for a bird to escape. Then, holding this down tight around my other arm, I never lose a bird by escape. I used to lose some before I figured out this foolproof method.

"I use white bread, biscuit or pie crust for bait. Break this up into small pieces the size of a five cent piece or smaller and sprinkle it on either side of the trigger for several inches in the middle of the trap. These sets should be made on the ground near shrubbery or trees where Robins frequent." (to be continued in March)



Do not nail the back of the hardware cloth down tight. Leave enough of the staple out so that the door raises up and down as if on a hinge. Use three or four small screen staples for this.

Safety pin to keep door locked. The staples come through the mesh and the door locked by inserting between the two staples and fastening



Lath drop trap pattern

(If you decide to try any of these traps I would like to know the results you obtain.

COLORED BANDS

Seth Low sent the News a letter from Mr. Hervey Brackbill of Baltimore, Maryland, describing a problem which he has encountered with the new colored aluminum bands. Mr. Low would appreciate comment from other banders on this problem. Mr. Brackbill's letter follows: "I have been using some of the new metal color-bands ("gold" ones only) of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and since the Fish & Wildlife Service now recommends these, I thought you would be interested in hearing of a sort of fault that has come to light.

"On May 14, 1950, I banded an adult Blue Jay, placing the numbered band above a gold band on one leg. Yesterday, October 5, 1950 I saw this jay again for the first time, at very close range at my feeding shelf. In this space of five months the bouncing of the bands as the bird hopped had distinctly flattened the meeting edges of both bands — the upper edge of the gold band and the lower edge of the numbered one. Each had a "flange" that I would estimate at half a millimeter in width and depth. On a later occasion yesterday, and again today, I confirmed that observation.

"On the other hand, there came to my feeder this morning, October 6, 1950, a Starling that I had banded on May 1, 1950, with a gold band above the numbered band on one leg, and both of these bands were still in perfect condition. Starlings do not hop.

"This repeats the experience I had some years ago with aluminum color-bands of my own making. Before I knew either how to make or where to obtain celluloid bands, I made color-bands by cutting cheap

aluminum saucepans into little squares, shaping them around matchsticks, and then enameling them. That aluminum was very much thinner than the metal used in the Massachusetts Audubon Society bands, but even it, in time, would considerably flatten the edge of a numbered band used on the same leg of birds that hop (and, of course, would also be flattened itself). I remember that after a couple of years — two years, I think — a Chewink's No. 2 band was so flattened that part of the inscription on it was effaced.

"If I retrap any birds bearing flattened bands, I'll replace them and send you the specimens with data on length of wear — unless someone else has already done this, or you encounter some on your own birds. I have used quite a few on Robins, and a number on Catbirds and Song Sparrows, some of which ought to yield returns next spring, at least.

"The obvious suggestion that some further hardening of the metals, if that is possible, would at least slow down the flattening, is the only remedy I am able to suggest."

JUNCO SYMPOSIUM

Don't forget the Junco Symposium scheduled for the February issue. Much more material is needed to make this one successful. Data on weights, measurements, sexing, age determination, migration pattern, repeats, returns, etc. are all needed. But, material must be in your Editor's hands by January 20, 1951 — No later.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Frederick Greeley, 15-B University House, Eagle Heights, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

Mr. Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr., 190 Lakeside Rd., Ardmore, Penna.

NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome as a new member —

Mr. James R. Ellwood, Sheldon Rd., R. D. #2
Valencia, Pennsylvania

The Editor apologizes for the lateness of this issue — but the Christmas Season caught up with him —

EBBA Presents

A BETTER TRAP LINE FOR 1951

ONE-CELL
TRIP-STEP
TRAP

Redesigned with less visibility and more strength. All-metal construction with a galvanized floor and sliding door. Our most popular model for feeding shelf or on the ground. Size 6 x 6 x 8.

ONE-CELL
TOP-OPENING
TRAP

A good bush trap to be set in shrubbery or on a tree. Less visibility, stronger spring and all-metal construction. Size 6 x 6 x 8.

Each of these traps \$2.00 postpaid within 200 miles of New York City. Other banders add 25 cents per trap for postage and packing. Canadian banders add \$1.00 per trap. All traps available in 1/2 and 1/4 wire mesh. Please specify.

GATHERING
CAGE

A safe all-metal gathering cage with 100 uses. Size 4 x 4 x 8 with sliding door. \$1.00 postpaid in U.S.A.

Larger traps of top-opening type available. For full information write to: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L.I., N. Y.

Return to:

R. O. Bender
R.D. 1
Bridgeton, N.J.

Sec. 34-66, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Wilmington, Del.
Permit No. 154

MRS. DAYTON STONER
399 STATE STREET
ALBANY 6, N.Y.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED