

E B B A N E W S

March 1953

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE E.B.B.A.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Bird-Banding Association was held on Saturday, March 21, 1953, at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (Penna.). The following officers were elected:

President: RAYMOND J. MIDDLETON,
131 N. Whitehall Road, Norristown, Pa.
First Vice-President: JOSEPH M. CADBURY, Johnson Court No. 1,
16 E. Johnson St., Philadelphia 44, Pa.
Second Vice-President: RICHARD O. BENDER, Cobbs Mill
Road, Route 1, Bridgeton, New Jersey
Third Vice-President: WILLIAM PEPPER,
20 East Bell's Mill Road, Philadelphia 18, Pa.
Secretary: FRANK P. FRAZIER,
424 Highland Ave., Upper Montclair, New Jersey
Treasurer: MERRILL WOOD,
811 N. Allen St., State College, Pa.

Council Members elected for terms expiring 1956 are: JOHN L. BULL,
49 Morrall Road, Far Rockaway, L.I., N.Y.; WILLIAM O. ASTLE, 45-64 158th
St., Flushing, L.I., N.Y.; STEPHEN G. FORDHAM, Delmar Game Farm, Delmar,
N.Y. Previously elected for terms expiring 1955 are: DR. MAURICE BROWN,
Route 2, Kompton, Pa.; ARTHUR H. EAST, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington,
Va.; and MRS. HOWARD G. McENTEE, 490 Fairfield Ave., Ridgewood, N.J.
Previously elected for terms expiring 1954 are: DR. HAROLD B. WOOD,
3016 N. Second St., Harrisburg, Pa.; ORVILLE W. CROWDER, Chase, Md.;
and MRS. JOHN Y. DATER, JR., 259 Grove St., Ramsey, N.J.

Albert E. Conway was reappointed Editor of EBBA NEWS.

The following accounts of the annual meeting were kindly contributed by Mrs. Albert E. Conway and Mrs. Howard G. McEntee. It is hoped that those who were not present at the meeting will get from them some small idea of the pleasure and education which those in attendance received from these meetings.

THE SESSIONS OF SATURDAY, MARCH 21

by June R. Conway

The two day annual meeting of E.B.B.A. began with a meeting of the Council. The outcome of this meeting was a decision to meet at Baltimore, Maryland, on April 3, 1954. Knowing the banders of that area, as well as the proved abilities of our President, I predict a "bang-up job" of preparation for the event, and, unless you attended this year, you won't know what you will be missing unless you reserve the time and attend next year!

At the same meeting, it was also decided to reappoint Albert E. Conway as Editor of E.B.B.A. News for an additional term.

Merrill Wood's paper, "Gape Worms in Robins", was the first to be heard in the open meeting. It proved not only scientifically informative but also of general interest. Considerable informal discussion of the subject took place at the several banding stations visited on Sunday.

Frank Frazier brought before the meeting a fine, illustrated discussion of Hermit Thrush Trapping. Look for it to be published one of these days, perhaps in Bird Banding.

Mrs. John Y. Dater, of Ramsey, N.J., illustrated her talk on "Purple Finch Returns and Recoveries"; here is a remarkable banding program for a suburban yard. (We hope to present some of these results in a future issue of EBBA NEWS.--Ed.)

, During Seth Low's interesting account of "Five Years of Banding at Stony Brooke Farm", his remarks were punctuated by the sudden collapse of a row of ancient chairs, along with a number of attentive listeners. After the merriment subsided, Mr. Low opened the meeting to questions.

The morning session ended with "Comments" by the Editor of EBBA NEWS.

The afternoon opened with a paper read by Horace Groskin, a past president of the Association, entitled "Banding 400 Cardinals, Remarks, and Behavior". A visit to Mr. Groskin's station the following day provided ample evidence, as if it were needed, of the fine work which he is doing.

Motion pictures by Maurice Broun, of Hawk Mountain fame, and his engaging narrative frequently interspersed with bits of scientific observation brought Hawk Mountain with its beauty, disappointments, labor, and triumphs, to members of the E.V.B.A., many of whom are also members of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association.

The election of officers and council members, as listed above, was followed by a panel discussion of banding problems, and the discussants were Seth H. Low, Chandler H. Robins, Joseph M. Cadbury, and Raymond J. Middleton.

The highlight of the dinner Saturday evening was not the excellent food but the motion picture film entitled "Adventures with Nestling Birds" by Esther Heacock. Her remarkable film captured the birds as they flashed in and out of the nest area in their tireless round of feeding and caring for their young.

Our thanks go to our President, Raymond J. Middleton, and to the local committee on arrangements who planned and produced this very fine meeting. Members of the local committee included William Popper, Chairman, and Joseph Cadbury, John Gillespie, and John Dornan. Herman F. Kuch, Jr., was in charge of hotel reservations, while Mrs. Kuch was in charge of the registration table; Mrs. Kuch also assisted Mrs. Raymond J. Middleton in the preparation of lunch for about forty members on Sunday during the tour of banding stations.

Concerning the meeting, Merrill Wood said in a letter to the Editor, "I think the EBBA meeting was one of the nicest we ever had", while Frank Frazier wrote, "It was a good meeting, I thought. I came away full of ideas on traps to make and projects to explore. And I had a most interesting time talking to all and sundry".

VISITS TO BANDING STATIONS

by Elinor McEntee

Contrary to all weather predictions, Sunday turned out to be a beautiful warm spring day, and at nine-thirty the group staying in Philadelphia and those coming from other directions met at the home of Herman and Ilse Kuch in Penfield Downs. The unusual thing about the Kuch banding station, conducted in a built-up suburban area, is that they use not only their own yard but that of their neighbor, too. Few of us are lucky enough to have neighbors tolerant of traps hidden here and there in their garden! After everyone had had time to inspect the traps--most, if not all, made by Herman Kuch himself--make notes, take pictures, and hunt up a White-winged Crossbill someone saw in the neighbor's tree, the nine car caravan was guided over to Horace Groskin's home in Ardmore.

Mr. Groskin, who has banded many hundreds of Purple Finches and Goldfinches, does most of his trapping with small single or double cell Potter-type traps placed on the wall of his terrace just outside the house. That morning was no exception, and Mr. Groskin had a number of birds in his traps to prove it. There, too, many pictures were taken, and everyone had a chance to observe two White-winged Crossbills eating on the feeder.

Next, the caravan made its way to Norristown, and here, at Raymond Middleton's, everyone--some thirty or more persons--had a good time roaming through the woods and gardens looking at his many traps. Here, of course, were several samples of the well-known "Middleton thrush trap", popular with many banders. All present had an opportunity, too, to see a little of the Middleton's squab farm. Here, in one of the units, squabs in all stages of development were seen--adults, young birds, newly hatched chicks, and eggs just cracking open.

By this time, everyone was getting hungry, and the delicious sandwiches, cake, and coffee served by the committee were more than welcome. If, by this time, the banders still hadn't had time enough to say all they wanted to, this was a perfect opportunity to do so while sitting out on the porch in the warm sun eating lunch. No one ever seems to run out of things to say! It is this friendly exchange of informa-

tion and ideas which makes these get-togethers so enjoyable. The fitting end to the weekend was a visit to the home of John James Audubon, "Mill Grove", which is now being preserved as a sanctuary. --Mrs. Howard G. McEntee, 490 Fairfield Ave., Ridgewood, New Jersey

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LIST OF GUESTS AND MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

The following list of some fifty-one persons from seven states who attended is presented herewith chiefly to show those who did not attend how far many persons are willing to go attend our meetings, and furthermore, many of these persons can be counted on year after year. The Editor has prepared this list from memory, and his apologies will be due to anyone whose name is inadvertently omitted.

CONNECTICUT: Mr. and Mrs. E. Alexander Borgstrom, West Hartford. DELAWARE: H. F. Farrand, Wilmington. MARYLAND: Orville W. Crowder, Chase; Dr. Carlton M. Herman, Patuxent; Seth H. Low and Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent. NEW JERSEY: Mrs. John Y. Dater, Jr., Ramsey; Howard Drinkwater, Whitehouse; Dr. Paul H. Fluck, Lambertville; Frank P. Frazier and Frank P. Frazier, Jr., Upper Montclair; Thomas Byers, Sewell; J. George Hitchner, Pitman; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Jarvis and Robert Jarvis, Pemberton; Bennett K. Matlack, Bridgeton; Mrs. Howard G. McEntee, Ridgewood; J. Stanley Quickmire, Jr., Vineland.

NEW YORK: Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Gill, Huntington; Mrs. Louis C. Owens, Jr., Mt. Kisco. PENNSYLVANIA: James Bond, Philadelphia; Maurice Broun, Kempton; Mr. and Mrs. Cyril K. Bryan, Kimberton; Joseph M. Cadbury, Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Conway, Easton; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gillespie, Glenolden; Margaret S. Goodwin, West Chester; Forrest C. Grimm, Carlisle; Horace Groskin, Ardmore; Frederick V. Hebard, Philadelphia; Mrs. Donald Kitchen, Kimberton; Mr. and Mrs. Herman F. Kuch, Jr., Penfield Downs; Raymond J. Middleton, Norristown; Carl E. Montgomery, Allentown; Mr. and Mrs. William Pepper and Mr. and Mrs. John Dornan, Philadelphia; Dr. and Mrs. Harold B. Wood, Harrisburg; Merrill Wood, State College. VIRGINIA: Arthur H. East, Arlington.

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Reserve Saturday, April 4, 1954, for the next annual meeting at Baltimore, Maryland.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR 1952-53

Receipts

Balance from 1951-52 (on March, 29, 1952).....	\$ 489.16
Membership dues (including 44 Sustaining Memberships).....	563.18
Sale of equipment made by Mr. Geoffrey Gill.....	5.50
Auction of photographs at annual meeting.....	6.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS: 1064.34	

Disbursements

Publication of the EBBA NEWS.....	408.41
Expenses of the Treasurer.....	31.50
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: 439.91	

Balance Sheet

Total receipts.....	1064.34
Total disbursements.....	439.91
Balance (on March 21, 1953).....	\$ 624.43

Number of members gained.....	33
Number of members lost.....	29
Number of members in the E.B.B.A. on March 21, 1953.....	252
(13 of which are in arrears)	

Morrill Wood, Treas.
March 21, 1953

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REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

In the February issue, a request for information concerning foods used to attract various species of birds to feeding shelves and traps was presented from Mr. John V. Dennis, Route 1, Box 376, Leesburg, Va., in connection with a projected book. Mr. Dennis now writes that he also would welcome information as well on any types of attractants used.

CARE OF YOUNG BIRDS

Last summer, Mrs. Howard G. McEntee (July issue, p.5) wanted to know what could be done to stem the tide of fledglings brought to her by well-intentioned yet misinformed persons when they should have been left with their parents. Mrs. Robert A. Arny, 149 Watchung Ave., Upper Montclair, N.J., agrees, in a letter to the Editor dated August 25, 1952, that Mrs. McEntee is dead right in her effort to educate children and others to leave the young birds where they are found. However, she also admits, despite the best efforts of this sort, there always will be some birds which will be brought to the banded or about which he or she will be asked for advice on feeding. Space does not permit publication of all of Mrs. Arny's interesting letter, but it seems to the Editor that her comments on feeding are very pertinent at this time.

"Young birds thrive best on chopped lean meat and whole wheat bread, and a minimum of water. Raptors should have horse meat with feathers (from the poultry market) cut up fine and mixed in. Crows, jay jays, and other omnivores like canned dog food. Grated raw carrots should be added to the diet of all but birds of prey; it supplies calcium for bone and feather building.

"Witch hazel is the best thing I have found for treating bruises, and wounds should be bathed with ST37. Above all, with young birds, avoid chilling."

Some other comments on banding in general which Mrs. Arny makes are of interest. Here are some: "I should like to see the small banders get a little encouragement. Somehow the idea has gotten around that its numbers that count. Undoubtedly a lot of data are better than a little, but the back yard bander's greatest contribution is not the scientific findings, it is that he stands in the position of an apostle teaching to all around him the beauty, the value, and the interest of all nature."

To this the Editor feels impelled to add that more banding of large numbers of birds just for the sake of banding and chiefly for the sake of recoveries does not, in his opinion, warrant the right to band. Banding should be regarded as a means to an end, not as an end in itself.

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