

1976

From the Presidents

North American Bird Bander

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From the Presidents . . .

Eastern Bird Banding Association

The Great Journal joining with the title *North American Bird Bander* is now a fact accomplished. As President of EBBA I shall do my best to make the merger work.

EBBA membership is composed for the most part of amateur banders in the sense that few make their living in the field of ornithology. I have made it a point to discuss with many of you your ideas as to what criterion we should use in judging papers or manuscripts for publication. With very few exceptions the "Frazier era" as editors seems to meet the desires of most of our membership.

We must agree whole-heartedly that the chief function of our publication should be to offer news about the methods and conclusions that have been the results of our banding. It should serve the new member which means there will be repeats of methods and trap designs from time to time. We need sections such as Bell's "A Bird Bander's

Diary," a current published membership list, simple trapping and netting techniques, and even interesting birding trips of our members. Some of these have their drawbacks and reasons for not having been used in the past.

I can only state that it takes 2 memberships to publish one page of our journal. If it is to be enlarged, we must have more members. In order to get and hold new members, the journal must serve their needs. We must give Mickie, our Editor, the needed papers to edit. Above all, the journal must serve those who are unable to attend every meeting.

I do not mean to imply that good scientific papers will not be published but that the Editor must determine if the paper is written in a manner that will serve the needs of most of the membership. If not, then such a paper should find a home containing that level of scientific interest.

(continued on next page)

Western Bird Banding Association

The 1976 annual meeting of W.B.B.A. was an outstanding success! How much of a success can only be fully appreciated by those in attendance who had the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of Colorado State University, outstanding scenery, and fantastic birds on the field trips. (Who can forget a pair of ptarmigan viewed at a range of four feet — banded, of course!)

It being a joint meeting with the Colorado Field Ornithologists produced a diversified and interesting scientific program. The chance to exchange ideas and techniques with ornithological colleagues from another part of the country was, as always, rewarding. In a way, it is a shame that E.B.B.A. and W.B.B.A. are so far apart as to preclude a joint meeting of the two banding associations — an event which could not fail to be mutually stimulating.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the appearance of the first issue of NABB, which was

at that time still in the mail to most members. It represents the culmination of a lot of work by many people over several years; I remember it being discussed at a W.B.B.A. meeting in 1970!

Although it may take some members a while to get used to the new — and as yet unfamiliar — appearance of NABB, careful reading will quickly reveal it to be a worthy successor to *EBBA News* and *Western Bird Bander*. Accordingly, it deserves our fullest support. What will appear in future issues of NABB will be, in large part, a product of what we as banders submit to our editors. We are all engaged in a scientific venture that has as its goal the presentation and dissemination of biological information about birds.

Some of us may band more birds than others, or handle a greater variety of species. The amount of time devoted to banding varies greatly from individual to individual as does the degree of finan-

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EBBA President *(continued from preceding page)*

The problem now is for each of you to think of some of your completed projects worth publishing, some of your problems that other members may be able to assist with, some of your own netting and trapping techniques worth sharing, and any other suggestions that you feel will make EBBA stronger through publication. Let each of us send the Editor at least one article a year and then we could offer our Editor a possibility of leveling out the subject matter of our journal. To date we have numerous scientific manuscripts but lack "newsy" short subject matter.

Mike San Miguel is right — with the merger each of us had an "increased responsibility" to make the merger work.

T.A. Beckett, III

WBBA President *(continued from preceding page)*

cial support. By no means does this break evenly along the oft-quoted lines of amateur and professional; indeed, I am aware of obvious exceptions to any such categorizations. Really, the distinction should not be made, for we are all students of ornithology utilizing a common set of techniques in our studies. None of us should be reluctant to share our results or afraid to learn from others.

We are working a field of science which is rapidly changing, and we owe it to ourselves and the banding program to keep abreast of the developments which could improve our effectiveness. Our publication is the best route to reach *all* other banders and not just the circle of our friends or the acquaintances made at annual meetings. Accordingly, it is my hope that we will all utilize it to the fullest extent.

Charles T. Collins

Memos to members

Wanted: Information on Blue Grosbeak plumages

In looking over specimens of Blue Grosbeaks in search of aging criteria, I noticed one possible clue. That is, the lesser (?) primary coverts, or at least the small feathers above the greater primary coverts and round the sub-alular area, are distinctly buffy-whitish in some individuals and distinctly blue (although sometimes white-edged) in others.

It seems likely that most or all juveniles have the pale or buffy condition, particularly in males. If so, it would serve to differentiate them (HY and SY) from adults (AHY and ASY) until the first complete molt. It is less clear in females. In any case, this should be checked under field conditions before a worksheet is issued.

Would all of you working with this species please look at this character and let me know how reliable it seems. I would also appreciate your comments on any other consistent characters you may observe.

Charles T. Collins California State University
Department of Biology Long Beach, CA 908401

Symposium to examine status of American wildlife

The Council on Environmental Quality will hold a symposium on "Wildlife in America" at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. on 29-30 September and 1 October 1976.

Thirty-two leaders in the wildlife field from universities, conservation organizations and government agencies will present papers on a wide range of topics relating to the status of American wildlife and our efforts to conserve it. Emphasis will be placed on ways to reach rational and practical decisions in the management of wildlife and its habitat.

The symposium is taking a broad view of what constitutes wildlife. As well as birds and mammals, the symposium will cover fish and reptiles, insects and other invertebrates, i.e., all wild animal life in the United States. Subsequent to the symposium the papers will be published in book form.

Further information and registration forms can be obtained by writing to: Wildlife in America, 1825 K Street, N.W., Suite 210, Washington, D.C. 20006.