

1976

Memos to Members

North American Bird Bander

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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.

From the BBL — Color-marking

MEMORANDUM

TO: Banders requesting color-marking sighting reports from the public

FROM: Chief, Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland 20811

SUBJECT: Reporting auxiliary-marked bird sightings to the Bird Banding Laboratory

We have an increasing number of banders who advertise that reports of color-marked birds should be reported directly to them. Many of these observations concern individual birds that can be identified or related to a standard U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band. We are losing certain recoveries because researchers fail to notify us once they have their own information.

We urge you to send us all reports that can be identified to F&WS band numbers and any color-marking sightings that are not of your own birds. We can report these to other researchers. If you advertise for reports, please request that all sighting reports be made directly to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, ND 20811. We will report back to the banders involved as rapidly as possible.

George M. Jonkel

Canadian Wildlife Service Shorebird colour-marking 1976: request for information

In 1976, the Canadian Wildlife Service will be continuing an extensive programme of banding and colour-marking shorebirds in James Bay, with the objective of defining migration routes used by shorebirds on their journeys between the Arctic breeding grounds and wintering areas. A highly successful programme in 1975 resulted in over 70 reports of colour-marked birds from amongst 4000 banded in southern James Bay, in areas ranging from eastern Canada to South America. Much new information is being obtained, and your assistance in looking out for and reporting colour-marked birds would be very much appreciated and would contribute very substantially to the success of the programme.

Feather dyes and coloured leg bands will be used to mark the birds. If you see a marked shorebird, please record details of: species, place, date, colour-marks and, if possible, number of other

shorebirds present. For colour-dyed birds, please record the colour and area of the bird that was dyed. For colour bands and standard metal leg bands, please record which leg the bands were on, the colours involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (*e.g. right leg, blue over metal, etc.*). A note should also be made whether the bands were below or above the "knee" of the bird.

Thank you very much for your assistance. All reports will be fully acknowledged and should be sent to: Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0H3 and BBL in Laurel, Maryland. (*See message from George Jonkel.*)

New banding manual

The revised edition, Volume I, of the Banding Manual, should now be in the hands of all banders.

We remind you that this is a *complete replacement* for the old manual — so transfer all your notes to the new edition and consign Old Faithful to the recycling bin.

Also, please try to take time out of your hectic schedule to go through the new manual, familiarizing yourself with its contents. Remember, the staff at the Bird Banding Laboratory is also overworked, and they would appreciate it if they did not have to answer questions already covered in the manual.

Volume II, which contains ageing and sexing data, should be on its way to you later this summer.

N.C. State Museum announces new journal

The North Carolina State Museum of Natural History announces a new journal, **BRIMLEYANA**, the Bulletin of the N.C. State Museum. Contents will emphasize the zoology and general ecology of the southeastern United States, especially North Carolina and adjacent areas. Consecutively numbered issues will appear at irregular intervals.

Information for all potential contributors to **BRIMLEYANA** may be obtained from the Editor (*Dr. John E. Cooper, Director of Research and Collections*), and purchase and exchange information from the Managing Editor (*Mrs. Sarah S. Robinson, Director of Publications*) at: N.C. State Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611. Dr. John B. Funderburg, Director of Museum, is Editor-in-Chief.