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THE MEMORIAL GRANT FUND

Over 25 years ago, EBBA established a Memorial Grant Fund to recognize departed members and friends. Income from that endowment has been used annually to make student awards for ornithological research projects which use bird banding as part of the study. Income has grown so that up to \$500 has been designated by Council for distribution by the Memorial Grant Committee in 1988.

If you want to remember a departed bander or birder friend, or to simply contribute to the support of student research in ornithology, send your tax-deductible check to EBBA's treasurer, Donald Mease. Added income from the Fund will be used in the future to increase the number or amount of these competitive awards.

EBBA 1989 Meeting to be Held at Cape May

EBBA Council has accepted Cape May Bird Observatory's invitation to host the 1989 annual meeting at Cape May, New Jersey on April 28-30, 1989. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this meeting at one of Eastern North America's premier birding spots.

The meeting will be held at the Grand Hotel and will feature papers, workshops, book sales, birding, more birding, equipment displays, and speakers on the area's unique ornithology.

Persons wanting to volunteer to help with the program, or to present a paper or workshop, should contact Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron Street, Schenectady, New York 12309 or at (H) 518-377-0146 or (W) 518-370-4200. A formal announcement and registration forms will be mailed to members in March 1989.

A Longevity Record for the Bobolink

Abstract - A female Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) lived to at least 8 yrs. 1 mo., a longevity record for this species. Longevity records of birds are often useful in studying life history patterns. For example, several studies have examined relationships between clutch size, body mass, and longevity records (e.g. Lindstedt and Calder 1976, Zammuto 1986).

On 12 May 1984, a female Bobolink, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band number 103-178176, was captured and released at a 19-ha upland hayfield 6.4 km south of the Cornell University Biological Field Station near Bridgeport, New York. This bird was banded as a nestling on 16 June 1978 at a site approximately 5.8 km east of our study site. She returned to our study site in 1985 and 1986 and was last seen on 10 July 1986 at the age of 8 yrs. 1 mo. The previous longevity record for the Bobolink was 6 yrs. 11 mo. for this same female (Klimkiewicz and Futcher 1987). We did not search for this bird in 1987.

In each of the three years of our study we captured and weighed this female, color-marked her by painting stripes on her tail, and took a blood sample (Gavin and Bollinger 1985). In 1984 and 1985, all three of her nests failed due to predation and hay-cropping, but she fledged four young in 1986. Her clutch size decreased from seven in 1984 to six in both 1985 and 1986.

Assuming that 15% of fledglings survive their first year and that yearly survival averages 60% thereafter (Wittenberger 1978), only about 0.5% of Bobolink fledglings survive eight years. Furthermore, given a straight-line distance of approximately 19,000 km round trip between breeding grounds in New York and wintering grounds in southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, or northern Argentina (Martin 1973), this female traveled at least 152,000 km during migration alone -- a remarkable feat for a 28 gm bird.

Acknowledgments

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