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Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

**EBBA'S 1994 ANNUAL MEETING 18-20 MARCH, HOTEL
BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA. BETHLEHEM IS
KNOWN AS THE CHRISTMAS CITY AND ONLY A 45 - MINUTE
DRIVE TO HAWK MOUNTAIN. CALL FOR PAPERS, CONTACT :**

MARY AND JOHN FORNESS

3086 HASKELL RD.

CUBA NY 14727-9402 TEL. 1-716-968-1978



MEMORIAL

We would like to inform the bird banding community of the death of ***Dr. Robert E. Merritt*** on March 12, 1993, in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

Bob was an honorary member of the Eastern Bird Banding Association and enjoyed attending the annual meetings.

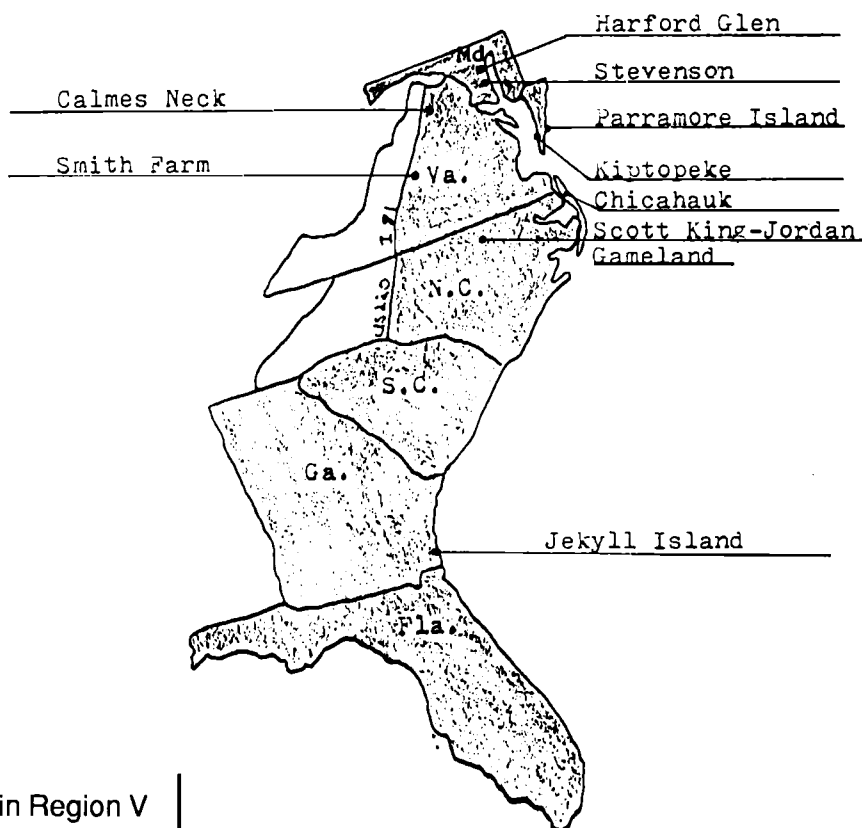
Prior to his retirement in 1986, he was a professor of biology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania for 25 years and inspired many students in the study of ornithology.

Bob's most notable studies involved the first finding and gathering of information on the rare Black Parrot. The Seychelles Black Parrot is endemic to the island of Praslin in the Seychelles. The study was done from 13 June to 1 August 1982 and from 1 July 1983 to 22 January 1984. The findings of this study were published in the *Wilson Bulletin* 98(1):160-163.

In hopes to help encourage new people in the field of ornithology, the family has set up a scholarship fund in Dr. Robert E. Merritt's name at **Foundation for IUP, 103 Sutton Hall, IUP, Indiana, PA 15705**. We hope that this will be an on-going memorial to the work and love Bob had for the world of ornithology.

Atlantic Flyway Review - Region V

H. David Leake, Coordinator
 113 Poteskeet Trail
 Kitty Hawk, NC 27949



I wish to extend thanks to the banders in Region V who participated in the 1992 AFR report. Last year's stations, Jekyll Island and Kiptopeke, were joined by Harford Glen, Stevenson, Calmes Neck, Smith Farm, Parramore Island, Chicahawk Station, and Scott King-Jordan Gameland. This extends our coverage from Maryland to Georgia. Next year we hope to add several more stations to our region.

The number of birds banded increased slightly for the seven stations that reported both 1991 and 1992 totals. This amounted to 9122 birds banded in 1991 to 9259 birds banded in 1992. Kiptopeke had the highest number of different species at 80. The percentage of HY birds varied from 98% at Kiptopeke to 69% at both Scott King and Jekyll Island stations. The average for all nine stations was 77%. Yellow-rumped Warblers topped the list of birds banded with 1306, followed by 1177 Common Yellowthroats. In subsequent years, we will be able to follow population changes in the different species banded in our district.

Three stations--Scott King, Chicahawk, and Kiptopeke--are cooperating in a tick study monitoring the spread of Lyme Disease. Most of our stations are also cooperating with the study being conducted by John Gregoire concerning 22 special species, total banding lists, and injuries and abnormalities. If your station is engaged in any specific research, please include this information in your 1993 report.

In addition, Roger and Dottie Foy from Oriental, North Carolina, reported their hummingbird results. They operated from 3 January to 21 November. They used hand-held traps to catch their hummers. During this period, they banded one Rufous and 85 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Their largest daily catch of eight occurred on 31 May.

Table 1.	Fall 1992 Region V Summary.				
	Harford Glen MD	Stevenson MD	Calmes Neck VA	Parramore Is VA	Kiptopeke VA
Days Oper.	21	36	25	32	56
# Nets Used	6 to 9	9 to 31	6 to 20	7 to 10	8 to 25
Total NH	640	4254	5071	2304	8055
Largest Daily Catch	36	95	80	109	334
Birds Banded 1991	352	1453	1017	**	2456
Birds Banded 1992	264	1385	760	495	2835
Diff. Species 1991	46	68	79	**	67
Diff. Species 1992	42	72	73	47	80
Birds/100 NH 1991	35	32	N/A	N/A	25
Birds/100 NH 1992	41	33	15	22	35
* Plus some traps			** Did not operate in 1991.		

Table 1. (Cont'd.)	Fall 1992 Region V Summary.			
	Smith Farm VA	Kitty Hawk NC	S King-J Gameland NC	Jekyll Is NC
Days Oper.	60	33	9	32
# Nets Used	11 to 12	1 to 5*	2 to 4	5 to 16
Total NH	8202	1132	180	1634
Largest Daily Catch	72	48	19	494
Birds Banded 1991	1181	N/A	82	2581
Birds Banded 1992	1220	333	98	2697
Diff. Species 1991	60	N/A	15	53
Diff. Species 1992	69	47	24	56
Birds/100 NH 1991	21	N/A	34	121
Birds/100 NH 1992	15	29	54	165
* Plus some traps		** Did not operate in 1991.		

Table 2.		Most commonly banded species - 1992.							
Harford Glen MD		Stevenson MD		Calmes Neck VA		Parramore Is VA		Kiptopeke VA	
41	RCKI	121	SOSP	242	HOFI	118	AMRE	1123	MYWA
35	WTSP	118	GRCA	39	CACH	55	BTBW	166	AMRE
26	MYWA	96	RCKI	35	ETTI	53	GRCA	132	GCKI
22	COYE	92	WOTH	29	SCJU	38	COYE	130	COYE
15	NOCA	76	MYWA	28	AMG	37	REVI	94	SOSP
14	SOSP	75	AMRO	24	MOD	34	MAWA	92	BTBW
14	GRCA	75	WTSP	15	BTNW	24	WEVI	92	GRCA
9	SCJU	48	COYE	14	WBN	20	BAWA	78	WTSP
8	FISP	46	VEER	14	CHSP	15	SWTH	66	HETH
8	SWSP	44	BTBW	14	EAPH	11	HOWR	60	VEER

Table 2. (Cont'd.)		Most commonly banded species - 1992.					
Smith Farm VA		Kitty Hawk NC		S King-J Gmeland NC		Jekyll Island GA	
210	WTSP	79	MYWA	31	HOFI	1098	Palm Warbler sp. *
169	AMGO	30	CACH	15	NOCA	939	COYE
135	SOSP	28	COGR	9	SCJU	112	AMRE
116	SCJU	23	NOCA	9	COGR	78	PRAW
109	RCKI	18	AMRE	6	AMGO	42	INBU
50	GCKI	14	MODO	4	MODO	40	NOWA
50	INBU	12	REVI	3	CACH	38	GRCA
36	FISP	12	CARW	2	MYWA	37	BTBW
26	CARW	8	BTBW	2	MAWA	32	HOWR
23	EAPH	8	BLJA	2	YSFL	30	PABU
* This total includes both YPWA and WPWA. YPWA make up only a small percentage of the total.							

Harford Glen
Harford County, MD
Barbara Bilsborough

392-0762

Harford Glen consists of about 300 acres, mostly wooded except for the area around the buildings, and one large field which is kept mowed. It is in a stream valley and a dam at the southern end of the property forms a lake. Great Blue and Green-backed Herons are common along with Canada Geese, Mallards and Wood Ducks. Deciduous trees include oak, maples, alder, black willow, tulip and sweet gum. Evergreens, most of which were planted many years ago, are mainly pine and spruce. Along edges, multiflora roses abound, mixed with honeysuckle and jewelweed. The latter two are a delight to the Ruby-throated Hummingbird in spring and fall. Harford Glen is indeed a fine place for a banding station and for outdoor education.

Many years ago, the area was a farm. The stone mansion is now the staff headquarters. The spring house and corn crib are storage sheds and the dairy barn was converted into a student dining hall. Two dormitories were built and fifth graders spend a week in residence for outdoor education. My assistants and I are there one day each week for the classes in bird study. Nets are up and the children see birds caught, removed from the nets, identified, banded, weighed and released.

My thanks go to my faithful sub-permittees, Sue Heselton, Jim Wiley, Bill Pfingsten, and Dick Rabold, and to assistants Ken Heselton, Jean Williams and John Wortman. All willingly lend a hand in whatever needs to be done.

Stevenson
Towson, MD
Barbara Ross

392-0764

Habitat has remained the same only more so due to a real increase in rainfall. This also gave us a bumper crop of fruits, berries, and seed heads. We continue to be disturbed by deer, foxes, groundhogs, chipmunks, and this year, a couple of cats. Fortunately, we think that the foxes have eliminated our cat problem. There were fewer

sharpies and other hawks preying on our nets this year. It seemed that there were more east winds and fewer strong cold fronts. We continued to band mornings into early afternoon. There was coverage on 36 days.

There were several returns of fall banded birds worth noting: A Carolina Wren banded 11 August 1987 returned 15 October 1992, and a Gray Catbird banded 15 July 1986 returned 7 October 1992. Curiously, Gray Catbirds went from 345 banded in 1991 to 118 banded in 1992. Black-throated Blue Warblers went from 164 banded in 1991 to 44 in 1992, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets went from 39 in 1991 to 96 in 1992.

Many thanks to banders Sharon Schwemmer, Mark Johnson, and Peter Martin. Thanks also go to our faithful assistants Nancy Mullen and Dixie Mullineaux.

Calmes Neck
Boyce, VA
J. William Oberman

390-0775

Calmes Neck is a high headland lying perpendicular to the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in a hairpin bend of the Shenandoah River. The vegetation is a deciduous forest broken by a few houses and access roads. A smaller open area is used for raising cattle. The banding station is in its 17th year of operation.

The small number of birds netted during 1992 may be a reflection, in part, of the generally rainy conditions on the weekends the station was open.

Parramore Island
Wachapreague, VA
Randall Moore

373-0754

Parramore Island is located off the eastern shore of Virginia. The island is covered with dense hardwood scrub and mixed high hardwoods and old growth pine forest. This is the first year of a two-year study of "Stopover Ecology of Fall Migrants on the Barrier Islands of the Virginia Coast Reserve."

I'd like to thank my three volunteer field assistants who worked so hard: Theron Moore, Elka Ertur, and MaryAnn Moore. I would also like to acknowledge the Cape Henry Chapter of the National Audubon Society and the Eastern Bird Banding Association for their monetary support of this research.

Kiptopeke

370-0755

Cape Charles, VA
John Dillard

Weather for the period 5 September through 30 October was about normal for the area, with slightly cooler temperatures during the early part and slightly milder temperatures during the later part.

Noteworthy bandings include the following: one Tree Swallow, one Brewster's Warbler, one Seaside Sparrow, one Rusty Blackbird, and one Ipswich Sparrow. We had five returns of birds banded in prior years. Our three foreign recoveries were all Sharp-shinned Hawks.

We started our Kiptopeke Banding Station in 1963 on private property and banded there each year until 1991. Unfortunately, at that time, the property owner opted to develop a campground on that location. We were forced to leave due to his disturbing the wooded migration corridor. Just to prove that miracles can happen, the property owner was unsuccessful in securing the necessary funds to complete his plans. The State of Virginia purchased the property in the spring of 1992 for use as a state park. Not only that, they requested that our banding group return as a feature of the park. They are planning to keep our location as a wild area by reforesting the disturbed portions of the migration corridor. This should ensure the continuity of our banding data.

We gave banding demonstrations this year to State Game Department officials, college students, high school and elementary school students, and a Brownie troop. VSO members from Virginia and nearby states aided us greatly in our data collection. The banders in charge during this period were: Walter Smith, Karen Terwilliger, Dottie and Roger Foy, Don Schwab, David Leke, and John Dillard.

Smith Farm

382-0781

Madison, VA
Edgar Smith

Smith Station is on the Smith's farm, approximately 100 acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are 20 acres in farm crops and 65 acres wooded with the remainder open meadow, some partly mowed. There are several streams and two ponds. Part of the area is a wildlife sanctuary where much planting for wildlife has taken place. There is no livestock on the property.

Several notable returns occurred this year. A White-throated Sparrow banded 15 November 1984 was retrapped 30 October 1992. This bird had not been retrapped since 1986. A Red-eyed Vireo banded 15 June 1984 was retrapped 17 August 1992. This bird had never previously been retrapped. Another eight year old return was a Common Yellowthroat banded 28 April 1984 and retrapped 15 August 1992. On 26 September, an American Crow was banded. This was only the second crow banded at this station since 1925.

The percentage of HY kinglets speaks more to the state of their skulls than to age ratios. Numbers of undetermined HY birds may be much higher than the percentages shown for Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 17%, and 44% for Golden-crowned Kinglets, because they are caught so late in the season and their skulls pneumatize so rapidly.

Chicahauk Station

360-0754

Kitty Hawk, NC
H. David Leake

The banding station is located in the remnants of a maritime forest on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. My property contains a wide variety of trees common to the maritime forest. These include: sweet gum, black gum, beech, holly, loblolly pine, hop hornbean, and dogwood. In addition, I have planted such plants as wax myrtle, northern bayberry, youpon, viburnum and pyracantha to provide suitable habitat for wildlife. At the back of my property is a canal that leads to Curituck Sound. I have been banding at this site for the last four years.

Scott King-Jordan Gameland
Durham, NC
Liz Pullman

355-0785

The 1992 fall weather was wetter than average but temperatures were normal for the piedmont of North Carolina. Winter residents arrived on schedule. Slate-colored Juncos and Yellow-rumped Warblers showed up the last half of October. Other winter birds weren't seen during the scope of this report. A Purple Finch showed up on Thanksgiving and a few Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were present at the end of the year.

My most interesting fall retrap was a HY Slate-colored Junco banded 14 October near Landes, West Virginia and retrapped here 15 November. This represents a distance of 334 miles traveled in a SE direction in 32 days.

From my list you can see that this area is not a significant migration pathway. My most interesting data are from returns and retraps. The best banding season is in the summer. I have been contributing to the MAPS project for the past three years.

My nets are located at the edge of a 30-year-old loblolly pine forest. The adjacent area is being allowed to go into secondary succession with amendments of native plants, mostly perennials. The general area is at the edge of a bottomland/swamp forest which is part of the gamelands associated with the buffer around Jordan Lake. Northeast Creek runs through these gamelands and on into the lake. The creek itself is about 1200 feet from our yard at its closest meander.

My only other "extra" project during the fall and winter is collecting avian ticks for a study being conducted by North Carolina State University to determine the significance that birds play in the spread of Lyme Disease.

Jekyll Island
Brunswick, GA
Doris Cohrs

310-0812

This was the 15th year that Jekyll Island Banding Station has been in operation. During the dates mentioned in Table 1, we operated the station for a total of 32 days and banded 2697 birds of 56 species. Birds per 100 net hours increased from 121 in 1991 to 165 in 1992. Although we have yet to work up statistics for the year, there was one obvious trend. The number of Common Yellowthroats seems to be increasing rather dramatically. We will be interested to see if this is noted by any other banders along the east coast or elsewhere.

We had some spectacular weather during this year's session. Only a few days after setting up our portable "station" and 16 mist nets, a heavy wind and rain made a new opening in the dunes at the end of the island which put our entire operation under at least a foot of water. After relocating the station and every net, things ran fairly smoothly for a few days until almost 10 inches of rain fell during one night. This made two of our nets accessible only to people wearing knee-high boots for the remainder of the session.

As usual, many school groups came to the station, as did adult groups of birders. All seemed to enjoy their introduction to bird banding and are given a strong message about the importance of trying to maintain habitat for wildlife.

The station is run with varying numbers of helpers, some being rank amateurs and others experienced "band-aides" and banders. Master banders include Doris Cohrs, Nannette Johnson, Terry Moore, Lydia Thompson, and Ann Wyand. Subpermittee Don Cohrs is our official "loud mouth" (his own epithet) to explain the process to visiting groups. Many of our helpers come from the Atlanta area which is 300 miles away. Needless to say, we are grateful for everyone's dedication to the station.