

1994

Eastern Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1994) "Eastern Regional News," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 19 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.

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Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

MEMORIAM

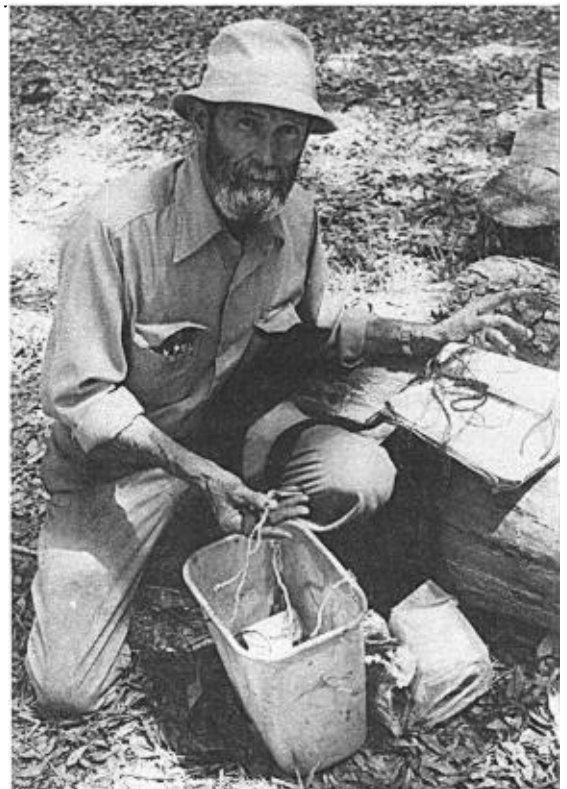
It is with regret and a deep sense of sorrow that we inform you of the passing of **Theodore Ashe Beckett III** on 23 January 1994.

Ted, as we all knew him, was a gifted field ornithologist of forty years. He was one of the first to conduct bird banding surveys in the Charleston area and a pioneer in bird banding in South Carolina. Ted was particularly interested in colonial wading birds and instrumental in the protection of key rookery areas such as Blake's Reserve, Pumpkin Seed Island, Drum Island, and Devereaux Bank.

He was a nationally recognized expert on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Warbler. Beckett's work banding the endangered woodpecker in the Francis Marion National Forest was a major contribution to its protection. He had observed more Bachman's Warblers, which is North America's rarest song bird, than any other modern ornithologist.

In June 1974, he was elected third vice-president of EBBA; in April 1975, first vice-president; and in April 1976 he was installed as president and he served two terms—April 1976 through March 1978. Prior to 1976 he worked diligently on the Eastern and Western merger of the two bird banding journals which resulted in our present journal, *North American Bird Bander*.

Always a cheerful teacher and companion, Ted was as eager to assist novice birders in learning common species as he was to discuss minutiae with the experts. A kind, considerable and extremely



articulate man whose driving passion was to see EBBA become a fine, proud organization of knowledgeable caring bird banders.

Ted Beckett's intellectual curiosity and environmental advocacy will be missed greatly by birders and friends alike.

For all his bird banding friends,
Tom Mutchler and Dorothy J. Foy

President's Message

The 71st Annual Meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association was a success according to the seventy plus members and guests that attended 18-20 March. Hotel Bethlehem was a great place for a meeting. The accommodations were lovely and the facilities for the paper sessions and workshops were excellent and comfortable. The personnel at the hotel were helpful and courteous. The food was tasty and enjoyable.

The famous Bucket Raffle created years ago by Robert Yunick was popular. The Silent Auction was started this year. It was a lot of fun and financially successful as was the Bucket Raffle. The proceeds are donated to the Frazer Fund.

The photo album that Janet Shaffer displayed received a lot of attention and interest. Janet is EBBA's historian. If anyone has any historical material, please contact Janet.

The program is printed for those members who could not make the meeting. You can see what

you missed. All of the members attending were disappointed that the Banding Lab Report was not given due to the illness of Danny Bystrak who was scheduled. Everyone looked forward to the report because of the changes taking place at the Lab.

Barbara Ross is working diligently to organize the Annual Meeting for 1995. The meeting will be held 21-23 April at Cape May, New Jersey. Birding will be excellent this time of year. The meeting notice is included in this issue. Reserve the date and join us!

Thank you to all the Council Members and Committee Members for their confidence and support. If any member of EBBA has suggestions or proposals to improve this organization or would like to become more involved, please feel free to contact me.

Mary Forness

Excerpts from Minutes of EBBA's 1994 Annual Meeting held 18-19 March 1994 Hotel Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Mist Net Committee: Gale Smith, committee chairperson, reported that mist nets are still not available from our supplier in Japan and he is working to get the necessary export permit from the Japanese government so the supplier can ship nets to us. Gale has placed an order for mist nets with a dealer in Finland but has no idea how long delivery will take. He continues to look for manufacturers in other countries.

Editor: Robert Pantle, EBBA editor and *NABB* publications coordinator, reported that he has been receiving some excellent articles which should lead to many more banders contributing to the journal.

He put out a call for banders to publish their research in *NABB*. He also expressed concern about the decrease in membership in all three associations.

Bob announced the passing of Harold Burt (at age 102) and of Ted Beckett, both past presidents of EBBA, and also of Robert Merritt, former mist net committee chairman.

Historian: Janet Shaffer made an appeal for members to donate any EBBA annual meeting programs they may have.

Membership: Elaine Mease announced that we have had 24 new members join in the past year.

Nominations: Nominating Committee presented the following proposed slate of officers that was approved unanimously by the membership:

President	Mary Forness
First Vice President	Barbara Ross
Second Vice Pres.	David Leake
Third Vice Pres.	David Hauber
Secretary	Robert McKinney
Treasurer	Donald Mease
Councilors-Class of 1997	Gerald Lahr,
Sharon Skelly, Kyle Smith, Glenda Webber	
Councilors-Class of 1995	Mary Doscher

Old Business: Ralph Bell announced that Walter Bigger of Trout Run, PA, is ill and would appreciate cards from his banding colleagues.

An effort to reactivate EBBA's Banders Network, a clearing house of information on who is working on what bird species, is being made and a coordinator is being sought. Interested individuals should contact Mary Forness.

NABB is again looking for an advertising manager. Please contact Robert Pantle, if interested.

New Business: Tom Mutchler announced that the 1995 meeting will be held at Cape May, New Jersey, the third weekend of April.

President Barbara Ross announced that Danny Bystrak of the Banding Laboratory could not be present as he was ill, but expressed disappointment and concern over the fact that the Banding Laboratory did not see fit to send an alternate in his place.

Papers Presented:

Laurie Goodrich, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania: *Veracruz Mexico: A Bridge for Migration*.

Gehret, Alan, Milgrove Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary: *Birds of Belize*.

Gehret, Carol, Pottstown, Pennsylvania: *A Vacation in Maine*.

Daniel W. Brauning, Pennsylvania Game Commission: *Trends in Birds Found in Agricultural Landscapes*.

Catherine B. Viverette and **Laurie Goodrich**, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania: *Sharp-Shinned Hawk Counts at Hawk Mountain and Cape May: An Indicator of Population Declines or a Change in Geographic Distributions?*

Shonah A. Hunter, Lock Haven University, Pennsylvania: *Status of the Loggerhead Shrike in Pennsylvania*.

Kenneth M. Burton, The Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes Station, California: *Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)*.

Stephen M. Boyce and **Bradley S. Silfies**, Pennsylvania: *Human Variables Related to Retrap Success of American Kestrels*.

Peter G. Saenger and **Daniel Klem, Jr.**, Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania: *Preliminary Report on the Birds of Armenia Project*.

Susannah Graedel and **Mary Doscher**, EBBA: *Report on Operation Wing Chord*.

Workshops Presented:

Daniel Klem, Jr., Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania: *Sheet Glass: Unintended Bird Traps and Specimen Collectors*.

Mary Doscher, Trenton, New Jersey: *Mending Mist Nets*.

Kenneth M. Burton, The Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes Station, California: *The Establishment and Operation of MAPS Stations*.

Bradley S. Silfies, Danielsville, Pennsylvania: *Ageing and Sexing Raptors*.

Banquet Program:

Dr. Frank Gill, Chairman of the Department of Ornithology at the Academy of Natural Sciences: *The Case of the Chinese Chickadees*.

EBBA thanks the following for their efforts:

Elaine & Don Mease, Jane Quell, Emily Smith, Carol Gehret, Tom Mutchler - Registration Desk
Tom Mutchler - Registration Packet
Rita & Robert Pantle - Mailing of Registration Forms
Jerald Lahr & Elaine Mease - Bucket Raffle & Silent Auction
John Forness & Dylan Bush - Audio and Visual
Our Committee; Tom Mutchler, Jane Quell, Jerald Lahr, Don & Elaine Mease.

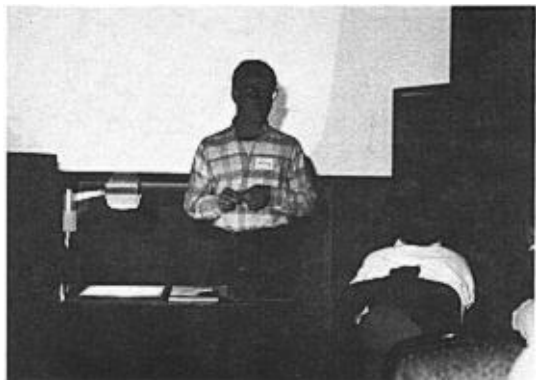
Special thanks to Mary & John Forness for a successful annual meeting.



John and Mary Forness
(Mary is EBBA's new President)



Barbara Ross
(outgoing President)



Kenneth Burton
(MAPS Workshop)



Raptor Quiz
(Heads and Tails)

EBBA's 1994 Memorial Grant Awards

Eight applicants were reviewed for the 1994 grants. The two applicants selected for these awards are:

Brian Nelson of Lake Placid, Florida, for his study, "The relationship between Rufous-sided Towhee song and local habitat acoustics: the influence of non-vocal singing related behavior and song sharing." Brian is a graduate student at Florida International University and is working under an assistantship from the Archbold Biological Station.

Sara Roberson Morris, of Geneva, New York, for her study, "Seasonal food availability, competition, and stopover patterns of Neotropical migrants." This study is part of the ongoing banding operation on Appledore Island, Maine. Sara is a graduate student at Cornell University and is working towards a Ph.D. at the New York Wildlife Research Unit. She has spent ten years banding birds on Jekyll Island, Georgia, and on Appledore Island, Maine.

EBBA'S 1995 ANNUAL MEETING
21-23 APRIL
THE GRAND HOTEL, CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY

Call for Papers - Contact:

Barbara Ross
308 Thornhill Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
Telephone: 410-435-7166

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I - Fall 1993

Tracey Dean, Region I Coordinator
Huntsman Marine Science Centre
Brandy Cove, New Brunswick, E0G, 2X0,
Canada

Where have all the birds gone? This is the lament of almost all the northeast coast stations for the second year in a row. The main fall migration of warblers, vireos, and thrushes along the east coast just did not materialize. A wide diversity of species were caught but total birds banded and birds per 100 net hours were down at most AFR Region I stations (Table 1). Is this a reflection of last year's poor breeding season in the north where the weather was cold and wet, or it is evidence of something larger?

Most stations noted the lack of warblers this year; but since 1990, the position of warblers with respect to the ten most commonly banded species has changed very little (Table 2). The average position has varied from 5.6, 5.7, 5.0 to 6.0 (1990 to 1993 respectively). The species composition may change but a diversity of 12, 12, 13, 11 (1990 to 1993) warbler species are abundant each year in AFR Region I.

Finches are a new addition to the top ten lists with the appearance of goldfinches and House Finches. Is this the start of a new trend?

Despite the low banding totals, a variety of southern strays were captured. Kentucky, Yellow-throated, and Prothonotary Warblers were reported from Appledore Island, Maine, and Nantucket, Massachusetts. Appledore Island also had a Hooded Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat made it as far as St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

A rather odd fall migration pattern was produced in 1993; and if you would like to contribute data to this puzzle, please contact me (Tracey Dean) at 506-529-1200 or FAX 506-529-1212. Thank you to the four regular stations for their 1993 contributions. Good luck in 1994; I hope the winds are favorable.