

2004

Eastern Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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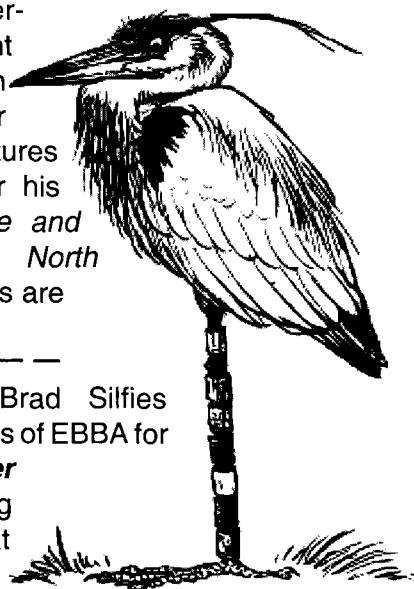
Stacy Hanks - Birds from Connecticut Audubon Society and Bird Quiz

Saturday Night Speaker

William Burt (Author and Photographer) - *Rare and Elusive Birds of North America*. Mr. Burt has had articles and photographs in *Audubon*, *Natural History*, and *Smithsonian*, as well as photographic exhibits in venues ranging from Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The author of *Shadowbirds* and *Rare and Elusive Birds of North America*, Bill lectures extensively on birds and photography. In this presentation, Bill will tell of his 16 years spent in pursuit of the toughest subjects: 20 of the least known, almost mythically

elusive North American birds. Bill spent weeks at a time in the field, year after year, to get the pictures that he wanted for his newest book, *Rare and Elusive Birds of North America*. The results are extraordinary.

THANK YOU - Brad Silfies expresses the thanks of EBBA for the efforts of **Ginger Bladen** in putting together a great conference.



THE MEMORIAL GRANT FUND

Over 40 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. (See below for current awards.) Income has grown so that up to \$500 has been designated by council for distribution by the Memorial Grant Committee.

If you want to remember a departed bander or birder friend, or 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.

APPLYING FOR RESEARCH AWARDS

The Eastern Bird Banding Association seeks applicants for its annual \$500 research awards in aid of research using banding techniques or bird banding data. Applicants should submit a resume of their banding and ornithological background, the project plan including the significance of the study site, and a budget. No formal application forms are necessary; however, two copies of each application are required. Grant requests must be received by 15 Mar each year with award announcements 30 Apr.

Preference is given but not limited to research in eastern United States, or with species that spend part of their life there. Projects that are planned for other portions of the United States, North America, or the Western Hemisphere also may be considered. Research studies with conservation or management implications are particularly encouraged.

Grantees are encouraged to present at least part of their study results at an annual EBBA meeting. Travel grants for this purpose are available, in addition to the Memorial Grant for the research. Also, grantees are encouraged to become members of EBBA.

Send applications/inquiries to:

EBBA Memorial Grants Chairperson
Elizabeth W. Brooks
1435 Waterwells Road
Alfred Station, NY 14803
brookser@infoblvd.net

RECENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Two \$500 EBBA Memorial Research Grants were awarded in **April 2004**:

Post breeding movements and habitat use of Bicknell's Thrush (Catharus bicknelli) in the southern Green Mountains of Vermont -- Brendan Collins, Antioch New England Graduate School.

This study will ask four main questions: (1) Does Bicknell's Thrush remain on its breeding site during the post-breeding period? (2) Are there differences in movement patterns and home range size between breeding and post-breeding periods? (3) Is habitat use during the breeding season different from that during the post-breeding season? And, (4) when and where does Bicknell's Thrush undergo its prebasic molt? Understanding the timing and location of molt is essential to interpreting isotopic analysis of feathers for questions regarding natal dispersal and connectivity. Moreover, assessing the post-breeding ecology of the Bicknell's Thrush may be critically important to its population viability and long-term conservation. If indeed the Bicknell's Thrush is altering its habitat use between the breeding and post-breeding period, then coordinated conservation strategies must account for these changes.

Wintering Ecology of the Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus) in coastal Georgia -- Brandon L. Noel, Georgia Southern University.

This research will address four specific questions: (1) How many Piping Plovers winter on Little St. Simons, and what is the relative abundance of birds from the three breeding populations? (2) What are the residence times of the three breeding populations on Little St. Simons? (3) What is the spatial distribution of Piping Plovers on Little St. Simons? And, (4) is this spatial distribution related to features of the habitat such as beach structure, beach composition, or prey availability? To answer these questions, the researcher will conduct weekly population surveys on the beaches, record sightings of pre-color-banded birds, quantify spatial patterns of habitat use, quantify habitat structure, and sample prey availability over two

winter seasons. Bi-weekly surveys for marked birds will be conducted for a third winter season. This study will provide data on the winter distribution and behavior of Piping Plovers from known breeding populations and will facilitate the development of sound management plans for this species on its wintering grounds.

2003 - William Hobbs - *Age related hunting tactics of the American Kestrel in eastern Pennsylvania*

Susan Guer - *Forest fragmentation and induced edge effect on Black-capped Chickadees*

2002 - Aimee J. Weldon - *Does patch shape affect the reproductive success of shrubland birds?*

James Rourke - *The use of fluctuating asymmetry to identify imperiled bird populations*

2001- Mark Hauber - *Social experiences and species recognition in brood parasites*

Vincent Formica - *Territoriality in the White-throated Sparrow*

2000 - Megill Weber - *Study of Blackpoll Warblers*
Rebecca Suomala - *Study of stopover sites of migrant passerines*

Mark Hauber - *How brood parasites learn to recognize their own species for reproductive success*



White-throated Sparrow photo by Bob Pantle