

2008

The Memorial Grant Fund

North American Bird Bander

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Lakeshore Estates
Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL
Peter H. Homann

302-0841

Banding activity at my Tallahassee site in the fall seasons of 2006 and 2007 covered almost identical time periods. Net hours, however, were somewhat less in 2007 because the scarcity of birds often made unfurling the nets an exercise in futility. This was especially true in November when Myrtle Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets should have made their appearance as they did in 2006, ending that season on a positive note. The only encouraging aspect this year was that, unlike in 2006 when I did not band a single Swainson's

Thrush, this species again made the list of the ten most commonly banded species, and so did White-eyed Vireo, of which I had banded only three.

In general, however, bird diversity and abundance were disappointingly low again. I wonder whether the persistent drought in this area has made my banding location, which is on relatively high grounds, particularly unattractive to migrants for a stopover and for overwintering, or whether my experience has more ominous implications.

To end my 2007 story on another sad note, I report that my year-round resident White-eyed Vireo of the past six years apparently has vanished.

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 research awards (this year two \$1000 and one \$500 awards were given) 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
5540 Jericho Hill Road
Alfred Station, NY 14803
brookes@earthlink.net

Note: Go to EBBA's Website www.frontiernet.net/~bpbird for a complete summary of all past research awards.