

NOTES FROM PEQUANNOCK, N.J. Mrs. Marie Dumont, one of EBBA's senior members, writes: "The birds in this area have been very unpredictable - for example, flocks of 50 or more Evening Grosbeaks arrived September 23rd, an extremely early date for that species. I have also had a Northern Robin on October 19th, the first one I have ever seen. It differed from our Eastern Robin in having a very black head, tail and wings; a deep shade of chestnut breast; and the throat patch, instead of having the ground color white, was black with white markings. The tarsi were heavy, needing a number two band.

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

Those who wish to give papers at next year's Annual Meeting of EBBA are urged to give the details to Mrs. John Y. Dater, 259 Grove St., Ramsey, N. J. Mrs. Dater will wish to know the title of the paper, the time required to deliver it and whether or not it is to be illustrated.

And it isn't too soon for every member to plan to attend the meeting which will be held at Annapolis, Maryland, on April 23-24, 1960. A visit to the Banding Office at the Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Md., is already on the agenda.

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## BIRD BANDING MANUAL

Mr. Allen J. Duvall, head of the Bird Banding Office, writes that nearly all of the material for the new Bird Banding Manual has already been typed in final form, and that it is currently planned to issue the manual in looseleaf form, and to add pages to the various sections from time to time. According to plans at present, eleven sections will ultimately be included, as follows:

- A. Contents
- B. Glossary
- C. Banding Office Forms, Reports, and Procedures
- D. Band Sizes and AOU Numbers
- E. Attracting Birds
- F. Devices for Capturing Birds
- G. Plumages and Identification
- H. Methods of Recording Data
- I. Suggested Studies, and Methods of Analysis
- J. General References
- K. Banding Associations

Parts of all sections will be included at the present time, except

for sections E, F and I. Sections C, D and K should be fairly complete. As soon as this first part of the new manual has been completed, it will be sent to all active banders.

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RESEARCH ON BLACKBIRDS Brooke Meanley, Biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, writes: "Again we are requesting bird club members to serve in a cooperative blackbird roost survey, with the objective of locating all blackbird roosts, particularly those containing redwings and grackles, in the Atlantic coast states between December 15, 1959, and January 30, 1960.

"Estimates should also be made of the size of the roosting populations by species. Information of this kind would contribute greatly to our current research program on blackbirds, specifically on the distribution of winter bird concentrations and an estimate of total eastern United States blackbird population.

"We also wish to thank EBBA members who participated in the cooperative redwing nestling banding program this past spring."

Readers of EBBA NEWS who locate or learn of a blackbird roost should immediately notify Brooke Meanley, at the Patuxent Research Refuge, or your Editor, who will transmit the information.

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#### OPERATION RECOVERY ON LONG ISLAND

By Leroy Wilcox

Nets were operated at Tiana Beach for 52 days, from August 25 to October 31, 1959, inclusive, with the assistance of Walter Terry for two thirds of the time, Geoffrey Gill for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days, and my 12 year old grandson David Tuttle for one day. Tiana Beach is about midway between the east end of Shinnecock Bay at Southhampton, where the mainland comes right down to the ocean beach, and the west end of the bay at Quogue, where the mainland again comes down to the outer beach.

We banded 3170 birds of 87 species in 4073 net hours (maximum nets 15). The principal species were: 766 Myrtle Warblers (84 on October 15), 513 Slate-colored Juncos (99 on October 5), 423 Song Sparrows (82 on October 16), 280 White-throated Sparrows, and 115 Golden-crowned Kinglets. We had seven returns and 541 repeats. The rarities were: Bell's Vireo on September 25, three Lincoln's Sparrows, Snow Bunting, Labrador Savannah Sparrow and Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow. This is probably the first Bell's Vireo to be banded in New York State, as I understand there are no specimens for the State.

On October 15 we netted two Myrtle Warblers with "foreign" bands. One had been banded on September 19, 1959 at Algonquin Park, Ontario, Canada, and the other was banded in Massachusetts, but as yet I have