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EBBA NEWS is published six times a year by the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Applications for membership should be forwarded to the Treasurer. The dues: Active Members \$2 per year; Sustaining Members \$5.

EBBA'S PRESIDENT SAYS On Sunday, following our Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 23, 1960 at Annapolis, Maryland, members will have an opportunity to visit the Bird Banding Office at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Maryland. To make the most of this visit the individual bander may find a few suggestions helpful.

On the occasion of EBBA's last visit to the Banding Office our members found three card record files of interest. The first, arranged alphabetically by the names of the banders, recorded the dates that schedules were received and the number of bandings reported on each occasion together with a running total of the birds banded during the life of the bander. The second, arranged by species, tallied the total of each species reported banded for the current year. The third, also by species, tallied the total banded for each year. We regret to advise that these files have not been maintained in recent years.

A card file is maintained showing the date, size, inclusive serial numbers, and quantities of all bands issued to you over the years. If you have returned any bands to the office or transferred bands to another cooperater, these bands should have been deleted from the card. However, individual bands which are lost or destroyed are not deleted.

If you do not now have a complete record of all the bands which have been issued to you, this will be your chance to bring your record up to date. You may wish to bring your own record along for a comparison with the office file.

The serial numbers of bands which you may have reported lost or destroyed should be entered in the BAND CATALOGS along with each number that you have reported used on your schedules. The main purpose of these catalogs is to facilitate the processing of subsequent recoveries. This will be explained and demonstrated to you. The catalogs have two additional purposes which should concern you.

If you have reported the same number twice, the catalogs will reveal this. If the data are not identical in both instances, the Banding Office will ask you to check the discrepancy.

The catalogs will also reveal omissions in reporting the use of bands. These, however, are not always called to your attention by the Banding Office. Over the years in banding thousands of birds of many species I have found that it is easy to overlook, quite unintentionally, the reporting of one or more numbers on my schedules.

Therefore, while at the Banding Office, you may wish to glance through catalogs to see if all of the bands which you have presumably used have actually been reported by you and entered in the catalogs. Now there are quite a few catalogs; one for each 100,000 bands. Catalogs are filed according to the series prefix numbers of the bands. Finding the bands issued to you, unless you come prepared and go at it systematically, could be quite a task. It is suggested that you bring with you a list of your bands arranged by the series prefixes and numerically.

While checking the band catalogs, you should take note of the last column which has the heading "R". If a recovery has been reported to the Banding Office, an "R" should be entered in the column opposite the appropriate number. If you have reported a return for a number, then a "T" should appear in this column. This will provide you with a check on whether you have received from the Banding Office reports on all the recoveries reported to the Banding Office.

This brings us to the one thing that every bander who visits the Banding Office on any occasion ought always take time to do. That is to run through your folder of recoveries. The office copy of the 3-624 report, the original letter reporting the recovery, and any other pertinent correspondence will be stapled together. In most cases these are filed chronologically as prepared; not by band size nor by band number. You may wish to bring along your own file of "flimsies" (i.e. your copy of the 3-624). It will facilitate your check, if you arrange your own file by the dates of preparation.

Presumably you should have received a copy of each 3-624 report in the office folder. Sometimes a bander finds that he didn't receive a particular report. Or, perhaps, subsequent to receipt, your copy has been inadvertently misplaced or unintentionally destroyed.

Recent 3-624 reports give only the bare minimum data on each recovery. Unfortunately all the pertinent data are not always typed on the 3-624's. Two pertinent facts, essential to the evaluation of a recovery are no longer provided. The first is whether the band was returned and the number verified; the second, the date of the letter from the hunter who shot the bird or from the person who found the band.

Recoveries are processed and the 3-624's typed by the clerks, who have no biological training and no background of biological experience. It is well to remember that these clerks interpret the recoveries and what appears on the 3-624's are their interpretations of what they deem correct and pertinent.

Thus, it behooves each bander, particularly if he intends to publish a record or to use it in a study, to read each recovery letter and to interpret it for himself. In any event, you are apt to find the original recovery letters are more interesting reading than the reports.

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1960 ANNUAL MEETING - Fri.-Sat.-Sun., April 22-23-24 - ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Attention all members: Please read fully as this announcement supercedes that in the last issue of EBBA NEWS as many changes have been made. And PLEASE fill and mail immediately the return postcard which is enclosed with this issue. If you have already made banquet reservations, please sign up again on the card and indicate your entree preference.

**OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATIONS** The Local Committee recommends the Charterhouse Motor Lodge - Revell Highway, U.S.Route 50, Annapolis, Md. Phone Colonial 8-5077. A few units are still available. Write or telephone immediately if you do not already have your reservations. Mention EBBA - special rates are singles \$7.21, doubles \$10.30.

Be sure to specify the right nights. Most of the members are staying at Charterhouse on Friday and Saturday evenings but are not returning there on Sunday evening.

All who are staying at Charterhouse are advised to go directly to motel and check in prior to proceeding to the parking lot near the State House. It is not necessary to drive into the city to reach the motel.

**TRANSPORTATION** There is no direct train or plane service to Annapolis. If you are arriving in Baltimore or Washington by train or air, advise Local Chairman in detail immediately and we will endeavor to arrange for a local member to meet you and drive you to Annapolis.