

THOUGHTS ON THE ANNUAL MEETING - BY A VETERAN AND BY A NEW MEMBER

BENEFITS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

By Marie Dumont

There are many benefits to be derived from such a meeting, both for banders of just a year or two, or for banders like myself, of 29 years standing. If a person is interested in his or her avocation one can always obtain new ideas from others.

To mention just a few of the benefits - every bander has his or her own way of handling birds while banding. There is also a lot to be gained by closely observing the various methods of trap construction, and of receiving and carrying cages.

Another demonstration from which I gained a great deal is the proper setting up of mist nets and the simple way of removing the netted birds from the nets. Another item of great interest to this bander was the information on sexing and aging of warblers.

While each of us no doubt has our own preference for banding tools and cases for holding bands and tools, still one can always find something new in that line by looking over the display of such items at the annual meeting.

The early morning bird walks, with competent leaders, help one to add new species to one's life list, and know the familiar ones better.

And last but not least, there is a lot to be gained in knowledge and enjoyment from the person to person talks and conversation with fellow banders, about the various problems one has, and getting the other's viewpoint on all phases of banding.

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ANNUAL MEETING - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

By Christopher N. Rose

Like many of you, my wife and I looked forward to attending "our first" Annual Meeting of EBBA at Cape May. However, as new members, I'm sure we speculated a bit more on what we might expect, how much we hoped we had to learn, without revealing ourselves as "greenhorns". Any qualms we might have had were dispelled at registration by the friendly manner in which we were received - we were made to feel that there are no "new" members in EBBA.

We were most impressed at the very beginning with the manner and efficiency with which the program began to unroll, especially in light

of the workshop committee being drawn from several states, and the many hours which must have been spent in correspondence.

The traditional gathering on registration night (Friday) and the critique of equipment on display is bound to increase a bander's confidence as he or she shares in the many discussions, searching for the common denominator - the perfect trap, techniques and methods. However, we would hope that next year even more members will volunteer equipment for the display, and evaluation by the experts. Be that as it may, the informality of this evening session is essential for "breaking the ice" and for setting the mood for the meeting and workshop sessions on Saturday.

The formal presentations at the general meeting revealed the tremendous span of activity which is taking place in the field of ornithology, and should certainly stimulate the imagination of the backyard bander. The possibility of building dirt ramps leading into a maze had never occurred to me prior to John Linehan's report on the "new methods project" working with blackbirds in Delaware. Furthermore, the healthy discussion which followed Allen Duvall's report indicated the mutual respect which exists between the banders and the Banding Office, and made us feel a greater kinship.

Where the time went during workshop sessions we'll never know! The various discussions and demonstrations were so rich in practical information, it was easy to forget this dimension. We sincerely hope that the program can be extended for next year - with the Sunday morning session becoming the "field application" of the information gained from the workshop.

Last, but certainly not the least, it was fun meeting "first hand" other friends and members of EBBA, some of which we discovered were neighbors of ours. We are looking forward to next year's meeting, and hope we will see many of our new friends again.

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GILBERT CANT
WINS AWARD

EBBA member Gilbert Cant, who is TIME Magazine's Medicine Editor, recently won the 1961 Albert Lasker Medical Journalism Award which is given for outstanding medical reporting for magazines - \$2500 and a gold statuette. Mr. Cant, an EBBA member for several years and a well known field ornithologist for many more, has been TIME's Medicine editor since 1949 and for five years previous was a writer and correspondent for TIME. (And more recently, for EBBA NEWS - a paper on the House Finch in the July-August 1961 issue.) Congratulations!
