

May-June 1963

WORKSHOP NEWS

By Rebecca Cregar, Workshop Chairman

There was not opportunity at the meeting to publicly thank all those who participated in the Workshop, and by so doing made the whole thing possible. Chris Rose, as chairman of the curriculum committee, planned the entire Workshop and obtained the many leaders necessary. It was a tremendous job and the results showed his hard work. Wilde Mellencamp, as editor of the Manual, planned its contents and, thanks to all those who contributed, prepared a very helpful and informative book. Thanks also go to the instructors and panel members, many of whom missed a session they wanted to attend in order to help others. Such short notice was an imposition to ones so willing and we sincerely hope it will not be repeated.

Now that we have had two experimental Workshops, perhaps it's time to take stock and see what they have done to EBBA and us banders. It seems most obvious that they have compounded the growing pains of increased membership. It has become difficult to find a suitable meeting place to house all the members and the Workshop. The Science Department at East Stroudsburg was perfect and we certainly thank Dr. Martin and his helpful students for opening their doors to us.

The Workshops have aroused a keen desire among all of us for Instant Learning -- "in all phases of banding" -- suited to our varied backgrounds" -- "longer instructional sessions" -- "give starter sessions at a different time" -- and "no conflicts."

The Manual is treasured by many and kept handy at the station, but "please! Space for note taking" -- "why not list the birds to be covered in identification sessions with pertinent information to which notes can be added?"

The instructors, too, have their pleas. "We wish attenders would brush up on topography of a bird so everyone understands what is being said" -- "please sort out the classes so we will know on what level to teach."

The above is a thumb-nail summation of the healthy criticism and constructive ideas which you gave after the sessions. They are a symptom that members are vitally interested in, and feel a part of, the Workshop. This is what makes the project grow and be alive. If criticism and suggestions ever stop coming in, the Workshop will have lost its vitality.

You may be interested to know that Saturday evening, John Given, Charles Blake, Alex Bergstrom, Jim Baird, Chris Rose, Chan Robbins, Wilde Mellencamp and I attended a critique and planning discussion (we couldn't find Jeff Swinebroad and were sorry). After much interesting brainstorming, several concrete solutions to our problems began to appear.

1. Instead of "Instant Learning" in all fields, limit a given Workshop to one area. Identification, ageing and sexing is much in demand just now. The Workshop could be divided into various bird groups and further subdivided into easy and hard sections within these groups. This would speed both teaching and learning and make for smaller "classes," all most desirable.

2. Arrange for free time in the afternoon after the sessions so people can wander back to the groups where they would like to ask questions, look over skins, or just talk with others who are particularly interested in the same area.

3. Hold the starter sessions -- netting, trapping, live bird handling, etc. -- on Sunday morning at various local stations, when possible, or inside if weather is bad or other accommodations are not available. There could also be a field trip for those who were not interested in the Sunday Workshop.

The above is a partial recap of some of the possible solutions to our varied needs. John Given, as first vice-president in charge of next year's meeting, plans to organize these ideas himself and we can look forward to more Workshop news in coming issues.

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CONVERSION FACTORS

(Reprinted from "Guides to Measuring Live Birds" by Frank P. Frazier, EBBA News Vo. 22(3): 67)

<u>Multiply</u>	<u>by</u>	<u>To Obtain</u>
Inches	2.54	Centimeters
Feet	30.48	"
Centimeters	0.3937	Inches
"	10	Millimeters
Grams	0.03527	Ounces
Ounces	28.35	Grams
"	16	Pounds

