

NEW BANDING SITES AVAILABLE FOR EBBA MEMBERS

By Ted S. Pettit and Chris N. Rose

In the search for possible ways to increase opportunities and open new locations to EBBA banders, the EBBA Conservation Committee approached the Boy Scouts of America. We received this most enthusiastic response to the proposal that BSA properties be made available for banding operations. "It has long been our policy to make properties available for other compatible uses as long as that use does not conflict with the primary use, which is Scout camping. Banding certainly would not conflict, but on the contrary could be a most useful function."

The BSA organization owns several hundred camps within the area covered by EBBA. These camps vary in size from 100 to 18,000 acres with the average close to 250 acres. The camps are administered by the local council. A camping committee drafts policies, but the council executive board has final say. Many councils have a conservation committee, composed of technically trained people, who advise in matters of soil and water, forestry and wildlife. Most camps are on water; many include streams, marshes and swamps, and many have a fall to spring feeding program. Some of the camps have excellent habitat improvement projects in effect.

The following policies are very well established in most councils:

(1) Camping by non-Scouting groups or individuals is rarely permitted; (2) From Sept. 1 to July 1, most camps are rarely used from Monday morning to Friday afternoon. A relatively small part of the acreage is used on weekends. (3) Most camps prohibit the use of any vehicle beyond the entrance parking lot.

We would expect that most camps would not object to banding Monday through Friday, and weekends when space and activities permit. We feel that a bander will be most welcome, if he offers one or more of the following services: (1) Assist in periodic demonstrations on weekends, with a nature education - conservation education slant. (2) In the summer, present occasional demonstrations, preferably on "parents day". (3) Help with habitat improvement; guide and supervise. (4) Help in nature conservation activities - Conservation Day Conservation Camps.

If you are interested in banding on Scout property, please follow this procedure: if you are not familiar with the "local" scout organization, write to Ted Pettit, Camping & Conservation Service, BSA, New Brunswick, N.J. - describe the general area where you want to work: state, county and the closest town. Ted will send you the name of the nearest council, address of the camp, and Scout Executive. He will also send a copy to the Scout Executive and will add a note explaining the purpose as well as recommending the approval of the banding effort.

However, if you are "at home" in Scouting circles, you, the bander, can contact the Scout Executive directly. Sometimes a phone call will

suffice, sometimes a letter to the camp committee is required. Send a copy of the correspondence to Ted Pettit, with a short note on the response you have received. The bander in either case will develop guidelines and other arrangements with the Scout Executive, or council.

In the process of developing this cooperative effort a number of project opportunities become evident, as follows:

Breeding bird census.

Habitat improvement for some birds - food, cover, water; what is good song bird habitat?

Population studies in intensively/extensively/non-used areas.

Bird/Man relationships.

Wilderness feeding stations - needed? Used? By what?

What eats what? ... and what hides where?

Bird/vegetation studies. Plantations - are they or aren't they "biological deserts"? Density of use?

We know about the four major flyways - how about "little flyways" or "microflyways"?

Territories - species density per acre.

Your conservation committee will be glad to provide or help develop outlines to cover the project ideas.

EBBA Conservation Committee - 98 Lopez Road, Cedar Grove, N.J. 07009



NEW LIFE MEMBERS

We are happy to report that the following - some of them "old" EBBA members, are now Life Members:

Mrs. F.L. Bower
Mrs. John Fiske
Mr. and Mrs. William Pepper
Dr. Antonio Salvidori
Mrs. Mabel Warburton