

have been drawn together.

As many of you are aware, the Fish and Wildlife Service has chosen to discontinue sponsorship of Operation Recovery. Through the years, O.R. has been a topic of considerable discussion and controversy. Without attempting to list or compare all the pros and cons of the program, it strikes me that O.R. has served a valuable purpose as a rallying point — a focal point where people

From this drawing together has come a considerable wealth of improvement in the state of the art. People have become more critically aware of, and have improved upon, aging, sexing, and identification techniques. Certain aspects of migration have come to light to be discussed. Theories have been proposed and subsequently sharpened by the interchange of ideas and observations of participants.

It seems wasteful simply to disband a trained, experienced volunteer force, especially since so much of the potential of such a group and its efforts remains to be tapped. It seems also unfortunate to lose the momentum that has been generated in recent years toward a better understanding of bird migration on a large scale.

Therefore, I appointed Fred Schaeffer to chair a committee to explore what EBBA could do to develop further the potential of an autumnal migration program. Surely EBBA does not have the resources to carry on O.R. as O.R. has been done in the past. EBBA does have, however, the ability through its publication to continue an exchange of information within "Atlantic Flyway Review". This will be continued through the untiring efforts of Fred as editor of AFR.

The committee has been actively seeking out areas of common ground that will serve to further a cooperative large-scale migrational study and which will find acceptance at a variety of stations. Their efforts can be better guided by the comments and suggestions of those of you who have participated in 0.R. in the past or who would take an interest in a future migration study. Therefore, please take a moment to convey your thoughts, or to offer your assistance, by writing Fred a letter. He'd appreciate hearing from you.

I would further encourage those of you who have been associated with Operation Recovery as banders and station leaders to tap the wealth of data collected at your stations and analyze these for publication. The O.R. tree has spent years putting out roots and branches. It is time to bear fruit.

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