



Our fellow bander, Bill Pepper, managed to acquire copies of two publications: "An Asian Bird Banders Manual" and the annual progress report for 1966 of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey, characteristically shortened to "MAPS". The latter, by Dr. Elliott McClure, reports on results of the Applied Science Research Corporation of Thailand and the U.S. Army Research and Development Group.

The Manual cover carries instructions in nine languages though the text is all in English. It was pleasant to find Paul Fluck's sixteen points of Bander's Ethics following the foreword.

Dr. McClure's Introduction makes fascinating reading. "There are roughly two great populations and species complexes north of the equator: (1) those species that probably originated and evolved in the temperate and frigid zones, and (2) those species that originated and ramified in the tropics. From these two groups spring those species that cross into other geographical areas, i.e. migrants.

"As an aid to understanding this vast complex of movement, we must visualize the past. Different genera and families have arisen during different geological eras and many of the present species sprang from parent species when the geography and environments about them were different from those of the present day. Since genetic imprints during these periods of differentiation and divergence may be very stable and impervious to adjustment, how the bird acts now may be determined by these past environments. Obviously strict adherence to instinctive acts may in time become lethal to certain populations and we then see change through the spread or growth of a population with more flexible genetic patterns and the disappearance of less adaptable species."

There follows a brief survey of the first appearance of birds, such as rails in the Palaeocene, hawks owls and ardeids in the Eocene. "The great surface movements that thrust up the Himalayan mountains brought the Miocene to a close. This uplift with its effect upon air movements and climate must have had a profound effect upon migration patterns already established in the older families ... there is probably no reason to believe that avian migration is a phenomenon limited to the present. Moreau (Proc. 10th International Ornithological Congress, 1951) reviews bird migration and concludes that migration is probably as old as birds."

"It is easy to visualize that much of eastern and southeastern Asia was continuous land or pieces of land separated by very narrow waterways... Certainly the arrival of thousands of juvenile Lanius cristatus (Brown

Shrike) at 7000 feet in the mountains of Luzon in September, and the sweep of willow warblers and flycatchers across the South China Sea into Sarawak suggest that these patterns were set up when there were no other land masses and when such great water barriers were not present."

In discussing banding, the author states: "Only the patient, the soft-handed, the considerate person may band. All others become useless in the field... Bird banding is a condition of thought, an attitude, without which the would-be ringer had best disist his efforts. No phase of research in avian bionomics requires more patience, more consideration for the subject than does bird ringing. Approach it with this attitude and you will find it a consuming pasttime, a provocative vocation or avocation, one to which the worker is apt to become dedicated.

"Because of international interest in bird migration and the possible relationship between bird movements and the distribution of zoonoses as well as disease vectors, Asian ornithologists are cooperating in an extensive study of bird movements and avian parasites. Such a study as this cooperative international effort may throw light on many problems already mentioned such as the migratory patterns of individual species, what segments of populations are migratory, and how far they move, the dispersal of gregarious species from their breeding colonies, the host specificity of the many species of ectoparasites; the geographical distribution of haemophagous protozoa and their relationships to host species. Side information can result, such as the habitat or altitudinal requirements of species in different geographical areas or the size and restriction of a species' overwintering and breeding territories. It is hoped that volunteer bird banders will become interested in these problems and many others, and that they will summarize and publish pertinent observations resulting from their studies."

The Manual continues with detailed accounts of banding procedure. Many types of traps are described and illustrated. The section on netting includes observations on the best methods of orienting nets in different types of locations, such as meadow, forest, hillside, etc. In spite of the fact that it has been written for Asian banders, there is much that American banders would find helpful.

The other publication, the MAPS progress report, is in five parts. Under Part 1 the objectives and methods of the program are stated:

1. To determine migratory routes, flyways, and distribution of birds.
2. To relate these movements to problems of zoonoses epidemiology through the collection and identification of avian ectoparasites and through a study of avian blood and sera.
3. To provide information on bird abundance and habitat usage which

would assist wildlife managers in evaluating conservation and management needs.

4. To stimulate interest in birds in Asia and to train local ornithologists.

5. To determine species, movements, and parasites of bats which are also migratory.

"In order to accomplish these objectives grants are given to organizations which have trained ornithologists or zoologists on their staff or available. These funds are used to provide equipment and salaries to teams of biologists who give full time to banding, observation of birds, and collection of information relating to the program. Funds are also provided to biologists who already have studies in progress in which the marking of birds or bats is used as a method...

"During 1966 grants were provided to 12 institutions in eight countries. These funds provided employment for 67 people. In addition there were 10 volunteer banders in five countries. Specimens were sent to 10 scientists in six countries."

Cooperating organizations are in Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Northern & Southern Philippines, Malaya, Sarawak, Sabah and Viet Nam. Headquarters are now in Bangkok.

It is impossible to condense adequately the information in two fairly good-sized volumes, most of which should be of vital interest to any banders, regardless of location. Two final observations are of interest. The level of literacy has a direct bearing on the number of recoveries reported. Also, "because of war and guerrilla activities in much of eastern Asia the presence of a band written in English on a bird's leg is considered subversive and suggestive. The lack of recoveries from China may be explained in this way. Letters have been received from other countries with such comments as 'if this is not confidential information may we please learn where this bird came from', which clearly indicates that the writer is suspicious that the ring in some way may be a spy."

Your reviewer would like to state a few reactions of her own to some of the above. There are suggested in the text great areas of ornithological interest in which there have undoubtedly been exploratory reports. Yet many of the banding fraternity live far from adequate libraries. Will not some of you who have access to monographs and proceedings and the like which deal with pertinent subjects contribute now and then to this department?

Finally, when such inclusive and directive information has been made available for Asian banders, may we hope for something equally helpful for

ourselves in the not too distant future. I know the bird banding office is struggling with such a project and the preceding statement is not intended as a criticism. Worthy as the Asian project is, it would be fine if we could divert a little of our taxes toward our own needs.

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Many of you will remember the EBBA annual meeting 12 years ago at Washington Crossing State Park on the Delaware River where Paul Fluck, then EBBA's president, had established a Nature Education Center. This organization has started issuing a newsletter to members. The first issue, Spring 1968, includes a page on bird banding and research by Dr. Fluck which lists ages of banded birds. Heading the list is a Hairy Woodpecker, 13 years. Two pages are devoted to a Junior Newsletter.

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Last spring there was an exhibition in one of Philadelphia's art galleries of wildlife paintings by Basil Ede. This digression from mention of books seems justified on the basis of alerting readers living near large cities to be on the lookout for an opportunity to see these outstanding works of art. They combine birds and foliage somewhat in the manner of Audubon, but with a photographic accuracy comparable to that of Dr. Earl Poole.

For the benefit of experts the brochure states that Mr. Ede uses camera and telephoto lens in amassing technical detail, and that his "technique of using gouache on dark toned paper gives jewel-like quality to his work". There is nothing of unnatural pose about his infinite detail: the birds look alive. I recall vividly the eyes of the Snowy Owl. I felt as if I were being watched.

Since the subject of bird paintings has been mentioned, it might be stated that a fellow bird bander, Zella Schultz of Seattle, is doing excellent bird paintings. I understand that some will shortly be used as book illustrations. She has shown me some of these and they are remarkable.

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