

MORE COMMENT ON STATISTICS

By Dr. Charles H. Blake

Dr. Hailman's remarks on my notes on statistics are well taken (see EBBA News 31:4, p. 158). I would only point out that there are tests to determine whether an observed distribution is a sufficiently good representation of the theoretical distribution which it is assumed to be derived from. The most frequently used of these tests is the chi-square test (Croxtton, p. 282). One may also learn something by computing, as I did in some papers on the wing length of the Slate-colored Junco, the skewness and kurtosis. These latter parameters properly apply only to the Gaussian distribution (see Croxtton, Chap. 5). In my verbal presentation at the EBBA meeting I pointed out that it is possible to partition a distribution into two Gaussian distributions. There are some restrictions on this, the most important of which is that one must be sure that there are not more than two distributions involved, let us say, old and young of a given sex or both sexes of adults.

I wish Dr. Hailman would program for us the simpler analyses of the rank-order or nonparametric statistics to which he referred. These certainly have their uses.

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OBSERVATIONS NEEDED ON COLOR MARKED SANDPIPERS

Members of the Ontario Bird Banding Association are currently banding and color marking sandpipers throughout the Province of Ontario in order to study migration patterns within the province. The sandpipers are marked in various colors and information is requested on any observations which readers might make during the fall migration. Please send the location, date, species, color; and mention the leg on which the bird is banded, to:

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