



TWO OF OUR THREE CHARTER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WERE HOWARD CLEAVES (LEFT) AND RAYMOND MIDDLETON (RIGHT). BETWEEN THEM IS THE PERSON WHO MADE THIS A GREAT MEETING: MRS. KATHERINE PRICE.

IN THE PHOTO ON THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE WE FIND, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DOROTHY BORDNER, ANNE MAE RAINIER, JEANE JONKEL, MRS. ERMA FISK AND CHAN ROBBINS.

PAPER SESSION AT ANNUAL MEETING

Valerie M. Freer

The paper session of the EBBA meeting April 27-29, 1973, at Island Beach, N. J., began with a presentation titled "Annual Variation of Breeding Success of Three Species" by Dr. D.B. Peakall and Robert Pantle. They used data collected in the North American Nest Record Card Program in an analysis of nesting success in Robins, Mourning Doves, and Eastern Bluebirds. The U.S. was divided into four regions: Northeast, Great Lakes Basin, Southeast, and West; nesting success each year (as compared with a pre-1965 level) for each area was graphed. Data from at least 10,000 nests per species showed an increase in unfertile eggs in all three species as compared with pre-1965 levels. Dr. James Tate, who presented the paper for the authors, explained that this may be an indication of environmental quality.

Mr. O.A. Ramsay gave a presentation on "Blue Jay Calls and Mimesis". He played taped notes and calls of captive and wild Blue Jays, including the not often recorded "Whisper" song and Blue Jay imitations of a Red-shouldered Hawk, Crow, and Screech Owl. Mr. Ramsay repeatedly whistled to hand-reared young; in time, they incorporated the whistle into their song. He also was able to get young Blue Jays to repeat portions of a 4-note phrase.

Leroy Wilcox reported on "Banding Willet and Oystercatchers on Long Island". The Willet has begun nesting on Long Island in recent years; Mr. Wilcox has had five returns from nine banded birds. He has also studied and photographed the plumage of Oystercatchers from the time of hatching. Mr. Wilcox's slides showed the differences in eye and bill color between young birds and adults. He also showed several interesting slides of the adult Oystercatcher eye, clearly showing an extra black spot present below the pupil.

A report on the "Cape May Point Raptor Banding Station" was given by Bill Clark. Combinations of trap types are used at two stations at Cape May from Labor Day through October in a study of hawk migration. Mr. Clark showed slides of the banding operations, including pictures of a European Kestrel caught in 1972 (the second North American record). He has

analyzed data on about 4,000 birds showing the peak capture hours for each species. Mr. Clark also presented charts comparing age, sex, and recoveries of the various species.

Dr. James Tate gave a short paper on his study of Sapsucker subspecies in North America. He presented a map showing the ranges of the various subspecies and showed slides which illustrated the appearance of each. His survey of museum skins showed that in the eastern race, the heads of females vary from red to speckled to black.

George Jonkel gave his annual report from the Banding Office. He said that the number of recoveries is down this past year for some reason; the numbers of banders and bands issued have remained about the same. Mr. Jonkel noted that the Banding Office is developing a banding plan for both game and non-game birds. Volume Two of the Banding Manual is in progress now; it will incorporate Merrill Wood's Guide. Volume Two may be sent out to banders in sections as each is completed. The Banding Office will translate letters for banders who wish to correspond with non-English-speaking band recoverers. Mr. Jonkel also pointed out that the Monk Parakeet is not under Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction; each state will make its own legislation.

--Valerie M. Freer, RFD 1, Box 21 G, Ellenville, N. Y. 12428

LETTERS TO EDITOR:

Sir:

At the Island Beach Meeting in late April a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at a net land demonstration showed a broken eyering. Does anyone know if this is a sign of an immature (HY-SY) bird? Can a complete or incomplete eyering be correlated in late summer or fall with incomplete or complete ossification?

Information on this, with dates and sample size, should be sent to Mrs. Bradley Fisk, 17101 S W 284 Street, Homestead, Florida, 33030, for possible use in the new sheets on ageing and sexing.

REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP OF THE 1973 E.B.B.A. ANNUAL MEETING

The theme of the Workshop at the 1973 E.B.B.A. annual meeting, at Island Beach, N.J., was "Think Spring!"

A Workshop session was held in the net lanes on Saturday morning, 28 April. The banders in charge of the nine net lanes were Scott Wood, Dorothy Bordner, Dr. John Weske, John Miller, Margaret and William Pepper, Dr. Robert Yunick, Gale Smith, Lloyd Price and Robert Pantle. These banders did an excellent job of showing birds and equipment and discussing plumages and molts and aging of some spring birds.

Each group, accompanied by a most hospitable and competent guide, visited four of the net lanes and the Nature Center and park office. Herman "Bud" Cooper, a park naturalist, was in charge of the exhibits. Many banders contributed to a good variety of excellent, very interesting and worthwhile exhibits. Coffee and doughnuts were served at the office.

During the afternoon part of the Workshop, it was stressed that the emphasis on writing about data one obtains is high on the priority list. Each person should think about the importance of sharing information and adding to the field of ornithology and banders should be expected to write and submit articles for publication.

Following was an explanation of the use of the principles of plumages and molts in more specifically aging male Black-and-white Warblers in the spring. This was to demonstrate the importance of reading and studying the first part (pp. 73-136) of Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr.'s classic paper, The Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York. This paper was published in the annuals of the New York Academy of Sciences; Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 73 to 360, October 19, 1900.

On pages 136 to 317, the Juvenile and First Winter Plumages of over 150 species have been treated at length and the emphasis should be on further study to make necessary corrections and to add information.