

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've had so much good material this year in EBBA News, I've hesitated to put in a Presidential Message. However, I can't let my last chance go by to say thank you to many people. So many contribute to what EBBA contributes to so many that to single out a few would be unfair. There are some jobs whose responsibilities may not be recognized. Did you know that our First Vice President works closely with the Local Committee Chairman on planning the program for the Annual Meeting? The Second Vice President prospects for new meeting sites, the Third Vice President develops our financial plans. Our Secretary in addition to the usual correspondence works on agendas for our meetings and assembles the Committee Reports. The Treasurer has a monumental job keeping us going financially, and has aided in many decisions during the year.

The efforts of the Editor and Co-Editor and, least visible but most important, the Circulation Manager (who knows the First Vice President well), provide the most tangible substance of EBBA, the EBBA News, without which I doubt we would exist as an organization. We started with a strong foundation for EBBA News but I think the last year's volume was the best ever.

The Council members, thankfully, don't hesitate to loan us their advice on matters throughout the year not just at the annual meeting. They respond with help in emergencies during the year, such as replacing lost Committee members. The Committee Chairmen have developed largely on their own, worthwhile projects that will surface to our benefit. Of course, we've received a net benefit from our Netting Committee.

Now that I've not mentioned anyone by name I feel free to mention everyone by name. That is by our name in common - "EBBA Member." Rather than say "your" I'd rather say "our" as those I spoke of above are EBBA members too. It's our enthusiasms, our interests, our communications, that make EBBA work for us. EBBA is us, not some mysterious body with a life of its own that must be supported. EBBA is only a way to band together, as many have said. What EBBA becomes in the future is what we become. We still may face the issue of banding together in a combined banding society journal. We may find we'll band together more in study teams working on breeding or wintering population rather than as individuals banding migrants. We may find we'll become more active as a group in broad environmental problems. We'll see new banding techniques and new questions will arise that can be answered by those new techniques.

Whatever will be the future in banding, I'm looking forward to it, but for now I wish to thank all of you for the past.

Dr. Jeff Swinebroad, President  
-- 10423 Kardwright Court, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760

(1 May 1974)

## Cape May Point Raptor Banding Station - 1973 Results

William S. Clark

The Cape May Point Raptor Banding Station has been in operation every fall for the past seven years for the purpose of catching and banding migrating hawks and owls. This article reports the station's results for 1973. The previous years' results are reported in earlier volumes of this journal.

The station really consists of two stations, located approximately 150 m apart on a north-south line. The original station is called the North Station and the other, South Station. The North Station was operated every day from September 2, 1973 until November 24, 1973 except for one day in early September. (The lima bean field adjacent to the North Station was being harvested that day.) The South Station was operated all but 11 days during this period, when there were no qualified banders available.

Descriptions of the operation and locations of the stations have been published in the articles mentioned above.

Tables 1 report the daily banding results. They include for each day the combined banding totals for both stations by species, as well as the banders and hours manned for each station and daily wind direction and velocity.

These banding totals are less than last year's totals. The primary reason for the decrease in total numbers banded was probably the unusually warm months of September and October (we averaged 8° warmer noon temperature for these months this year). The Kestrels, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlins, our most numerous hawks, were not very aggressive during this period, as a result of the heat. Hence, we lured and caught a lower number of those hawks. We did set season total catch records for all other species except Broad-winged Hawk. The Broad-winged Hawk migrates mainly in September and early October, while the other secondary species come later. All the records were set mainly in November, when the temperatures were more normal and the hawks were hungrier (and more aggressive).

The highlight of the season was an immature Swainson's Hawk which I caught on September 16. Details of this occurrence will be published elsewhere and photos have been deposited in the National Photoduplication Center, Patuxent Wildlife Research Station, Laurel, Maryland.

Our only foreign recovery was a Kestrel trapped on October 15. It was banded in Hudson, Maine on September 16, 1973 by Mr. John Morgan. He caught it in his front yard on a Bal-Chatrri.