

best ornithological Handbook. However, Europe (unlike North America) was already well-served by ornithological Handbooks: for all its excellence, this book is superior only in being up-to-date and in minor details of treatment. With the 'data-processing revolution' already under way, the concept of the all-embracing Handbook is becoming obsolete, especially when it covers only a limited geographical area. Taxonomists already require more detail than can be included in a book of this nature, and so do students of ecology, population and migration; all these types of data can be (and will be) stored and retrieved more efficiently by computer. The most important function of future ornithological Handbooks will be to serve as source-books and bibliographies of life-history data: this function will not be served adequately unless they cover wider areas, and treat the entire species as the unit.

In fairness, it should be added that the above comments apply with greater force to North America, where the efforts now being expended on the production of Handbook-style state bird books would be much better devoted to the assembly of local distribution data, and to the acceleration of the continental Handbook.—I. C. T. Nisbet.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR BIRD-BANDING

In late 1967, an editorial advisory board for *Bird-Banding* was initiated, to:

- (a) advise on general editorial policy;
- (b) advise the president of NEBBA on choice of a new editor when necessary (as NEBBA continues to carry sole responsibility for financial support of the journal, its president has final discretion on appointment of the editor);
- (c) advise the editor on choice of a new review editor when necessary, and advise both of them on new reviewers;
- (d) be available to the editor for opinions on papers being considered (though the editor will seek advice elsewhere in some cases depending on the topic involved, and may accept some papers without obtaining a second opinion);
- (e) help to maintain and increase the number of subscribers to *Bird-Banding*;
- (f) advise the editor on ten-year indexes.

Establishment of the board doesn't imply a radical change in the editing of *Bird-Banding*, such as editing by committee. The board should give the editors more regular and formal access to the judgment of some active and experienced banders, and thus help to assure that the journal is responsive to the need of banders.

Membership on the board involves one representative from each of the regional banding associations, appointed after discussion with the president of each association:

EBBA: Jeff Swinebroad, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Douglass College, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N. J. 08901

IBBA: Larry Hood, c/o Bird-Banding Laboratory, Migratory Bird Populations Station, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Md. 20810 (succeeding Peter Petersen, Jr.)

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OBBA: James K. Woodford, 76 Glentworth Road, Willowdale, Ont., Canada.

WBBA: L. Richard Mewaldt, Dept. of Biological Sciences, San Jose State College, San Jose, Calif. 95114.

NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. Horace Loftin (Florida State University Center for Tropical Studies, Box 930, Albrook AFB, C.Z.) needs two students for field work in autumn 1968, under conditions similar to those in 1967 (see *Bird-Banding*, **38**: 256, April, 1967). Probable place of banding, central Panama or on the eastern Caribbean coast. Three such students are working with Dr. Loftin in the spring of 1968.