
From the Presidents . . .

Eastern Bird Banding Association

As this message to the membership is written, I have before me Volume 1, No. 1 of the newly merged NABB. The membership can truly be proud of this publication.

Editors and printers do not create scientific material, nor are they usually in a position to keep members informed of projects under study, news of interest in various regions, or the desires the membership has for what is to appear in their journal. You, the reader, must put forth an effort to make NABB a journal that you look forward to receiving. Do not be discouraged at criticism from an editor or reviewer. Do not hesitate to query an editor regarding the type of paper that will be accepted.

There is a great need for short filler types of notes and news. These may remain for longer periods before being used, but they do serve the useful purpose of eliminating waste in not using all of the pages being paid for by you the members.

There is no secret as to what makes a publication really usable for its membership. The answers lie in full participation by the membership in offering the editor a vast wealth of material to edit. As your president I shall continue to stress the need for the membership to continue to contribute material to our editor until there is a back-log that fully meets the needs of our entire membership.

There is a fairly high turnover in a portion of our membership so there is a constant need to hold the interest of new members. If they continue to band in future years, NABB should continue to be a part of the tools they work with as much as the indispensable banding pliers. Your president stands ready to receive any suggestions that a member has to offer in making NABB serve your needs. Every letter will be given consideration and receive an answer.

Ted A. Beckett, III

Western Bird Banding Association

By necessity, banders are as environmentally aware as perhaps any single group of people. Without a decent environment in which to work, our banding activities are for naught. I am sure many of our members are painfully aware of this and perhaps more than a few are making their voices heard by various agencies and law-making bodies. In addition to various "defensive" tactics as this, perhaps banders can take some "offensive" measures as well. By this I mean we are in a position to obtain unique information from our banding activities along the lines of the Biomonitoring Program mentioned by Dick Mewaldt in the last issue of NABB (pg. 87).

In an earlier president's message (*Western Bird Bander*, 49 [1974]:3) I suggested one joint program in which we could monitor the level of abnormalities and deformities encountered among the birds we band and use it as an indication of overall environmental quality. Although this possibility never materialized, WBBA did undertake a joint

study of White-crowned Sparrows which produced a good deal of information and, as also mentioned by Dr. Mewaldt, has the potential at least to be expanded into a full fledged Biomonitoring Program.

The decision has not been made as to whether or not we wish to continue the White-crowned Sparrow project at its present level or have the resources to undertake an expanded version. No matter what the decision, I would like to encourage our membership to fully support this project for the coming 1976-1977 season. I would also like you to forward suggestions as to possible future programs that could be jointly pursued by our members should we feel it is time to move in another direction.

Through joint action we can take the lead in learning about and monitoring the quality of the environments in which we live and band. What could be a more important result of our field activities?

Charles T. Collins