



# Eastern

# Regional

# News

## Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

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## President's Message

Winter! Time to ease off, sit back, and take a deep breath now that the breeding season and fall migrations are over? Rather, time to seize an opportunity! Once the annual chore of the final Bird Banding Laboratory reports is finished (assuming that we have sent in reports all along when we've finished a string of 100) winter is an ideal time to look over the year's accomplishments and summarize data. What do these field records mean? Do we have data on the breeding birds that will help sex the species? What is happening to the breeding or migrating or wintering populations in our area? What will be the most meaningful plan for next spring and summer?

Think of those fall migrants, the hatching year novices which throw themselves out over the ocean on instinct, on faith if you will, to be borne into the unknown by the southeast tailwinds of a cold front only to be caught in the turbulence as the front becomes stationary hundreds of miles out over the water then, if they are lucky, to be borne by the northeast trade winds toward the Caribbean Islands and South America. How absolutely awe inspiring! Isn't this somewhat like us amateurs attempting data analysis? We throw ourselves at it in faith, get caught up in the turbulence of complications, and many of us make it to the smoother winds that bear us to the tropics of understanding and accomplishment.

Or many of us take overland routes where we can stop and rest along the way.

Think of our wintering-over birds toughing out weather conditions and fluctuating food supply depending on snow or ice cover, rain or drought. Perhaps we too can tough through some of those workshop handouts that we brought home with us from the Annual Meetings on summarizing data, scoring skull ossifications, molt, population estimates, standardized forms, scratching in the snows of noncomprehension, pecking at the icy mental block until we make the breakthrough to the food, the precious sustenance below, the meaning of our field data.

Our 1983 Annual Meeting, scheduled for the weekend of 15 to 17 April, will provide further encouragement on working up data, and perhaps the opportunity to see a small computer actually process data in a manner similar to that used in the Bird Banding Laboratory. There will be hands-on banding demonstrations for us learners at all stages. Plan to migrate to Wesley Forest, PA, on Route 45 between State College and Lewisburg. Put up the mist nets of your mind to capture research ideas and interpretations of your data.

See you there!

Hannah Suthers

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## Mid-Atlantic Bird-Banding Group Workshops

The Mid-Atlantic Bird-Banding Group will be sponsoring two workshops at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's Bird Banding Laboratory. One will be held on 5-6 February 1983, the second on 5-6 March 1983. All are welcome to attend.

Bird skins, wings, and photographs will be displayed, illustrating the Age-Sex Keys found in Volume 2 of the Bird Banding Manual.

Sponsors of the workshops will also be banding winter resident birds at that time.

Library facilities will be available.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Kathy Klimkiewicz at 301-776-4880, Ext 423, or at 301-776-6737.