



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

President's Message

At EBBA's Annual Meeting this spring, it was reported that EBBA, IBBA, and WBBA had all accepted the contract to be made with Ish River Press to publish North American Bird Bander (NABB). Subsequently, Ish River Press declined to sign the contract leaving the three associations back in the same predicament we found ourselves in a year ago - in need of a coordinator/publisher for NAAB. Work between the three associations is presently underway to set up an editorial policy and procure a coordinator/publisher beginning with Vol. XIV. In the meantime, Terrance Ingram will continue as coordinator for the remainder of Vol. XIII so there will be no delay in the publishing of NABB.

EBBA's 1989 Annual Meeting will take place in Cape May, NJ, and will be sponsored by the Cape May Observatory. Cap May's spring shorebird migration should be underway, so keep April 28-30, 1989, free and plan to attend.

One of the most important positions in EBBA is the Membership Chairman. Mickie Mutchler has volunteered to take on the responsibilities of this position. I believe EBBA is fortunate to have such a person. Not only is Mickie dedicated to the best interests of EBBA, but she is a person willing to go that "extra mile" to get a job done. While I know Mickie has already been busy recruiting new members, she cannot do the job alone. It is up to each of us to help as well. If only half of us encouraged someone interested in banding to join, our membership would soar to nine hundred. What better way is there to insure EBBA's future? Without new members, an organization slowly withers. So let's give Mickie a helping hand to perpetuate EBBA.

Judith Bell
President

THE MEMORIAL GRANT FUND

Over 25 years ago, EBBA established a Memorial Grant Fund to recognize departed members and friends. Income from that endowment has been used annually to make student awards for ornithological research projects which use bird banding as part of the study. Income has grown so that up to \$500 has been designated by Council for distribution by the Memorial Grant Committee in 1988.

If you want to remember a departed bander or birder friend, or to simply contribute to the support of student research in ornithology, send your tax-deductible check to EBBA's treasurer, Donald Mease. Added income from the Fund will be used in the future to increase the number or amount of these competitive awards.

EBBA 1989 Meeting to be Held at Cape May

EBBA Council has accepted Cape May Bird Observatory's invitation to host the 1989 annual meeting at Cape May, New Jersey on April 28-30, 1989. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this meeting at one of Eastern North America's premier birding spots.

The meeting will be held at the Grand Hotel and will feature papers, workshops, book sales, birding, more birding, equipment displays, and speakers on the area's unique ornithology.

Persons wanting to volunteer to help with the program, or to present a paper or workshop, should contact Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron Street, Schenectady, New York 12309 or at (H) 518-377-0146 or (W) 518-370-4200. A formal announcement and registration forms will be mailed to members in March 1989.

A Longevity Record for the Bobolink

Abstract - A female Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) lived to at least 8 yrs. 1 mo., a longevity record for this species. Longevity records of birds are often useful in studying life history patterns. For example, several studies have examined relationships between clutch size, body mass, and longevity records (e.g. Lindstedt and Calder 1976, Zammuto 1986).

On 12 May 1984, a female Bobolink, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band number 103-178176, was captured and released at a 19-ha upland hayfield 6.4 km south of the Cornell University Biological Field Station near Bridgeport, New York. This bird was banded as a nestling on 16 June 1978 at a site approximately 5.8 km east of our study site. She returned to our study site in 1985 and 1986 and was last seen on 10 July 1986 at the age of 8 yrs. 1 mo. The previous longevity record for the Bobolink was 6 yrs. 11 mo. for this same female (Klimkiewicz and Futcher 1987). We did not search for this bird in 1987.

In each of the three years of our study we captured and weighed this female, color-marked her by painting stripes on her tail, and took a blood sample (Gavin and Bollinger 1985). In 1984 and 1985, all three of her nests failed due to predation and hay-cropping, but she fledged four young in 1986. Her clutch size decreased from seven in 1984 to six in both 1985 and 1986.

Assuming that 15% of fledglings survive their first year and that yearly survival averages 60% thereafter (Wittenberger 1978), only about 0.5% of Bobolink fledglings survive eight years. Furthermore, given a straight-line distance of approximately 19,000 km round trip between breeding grounds in New York and wintering grounds in southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, or northern Argentina (Martin 1973), this female traveled at least 152,000 km during migration alone -- a remarkable feat for a 28 gm bird.

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