



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

President's Message

Fall is a time of change. A time of moving on to different things. A time to sit back and think about what has been done and perhaps, what can still be done during the cold season ahead. As has been the case for the past several years, work still needs to be done toward solving the problems with NABB. I would hope that by the time this message is in print, most of these problems will have been worked out. Cooperation and hard work are needed from all three associations to accomplish this.

The past few years have also seen a decline in attendance at our annual meetings. As well as being informative, educational, and just plain fun, the annual meetings have always given me a shot in the arm. What better place to talk over problems with or solutions to our banding studies than with others of similar interests. Our annual meeting this coming April has the potential to be outstanding. Cape May, New Jersey, is an exceptional location and many field trips to surrounding birding areas are being planned. Why not get busy this winter and prepare a workshop or paper to present at Cape May? Let us know what you are doing. Don't let all your information

and findings just gather dust. You can make Bob Yunick's program job a lot easier by volunteering to give a paper or workshop. It's not hard to get up and speak before the members of EBBA. We're a pretty amiable group. I don't ever remember anyone getting stoned or hissed or booed for a presentation, so let's do it. Help make the 1989 Annual Meeting a success.

In closing, I would like to thank the Gateway Bird Banding Group for their generous contribution to the Memorial Fund. The GBBG was founded in 1977 to stimulate dialogue between banders, to share currently known field techniques, and to investigate new techniques and field projects for the benefit of all banders. Although they disbanded in 1983, they made their final official act this past summer with their donation to EBBA. As you know, monies from the interest on the principal in the Memorial Fund are used to provide grants to stimulate research in the field of ornithology through the use of bird banding techniques. With this donation, Gateway's purpose will be carried on.

Judith Bell
President

CORRECTION

Vol. XIII, No. 2, April-June, p.44: "Comments on 'A Summary of Black-capped Chickadee Recoveries During Spring Migration'" by Paul A. Stewart: The first two sentences of the second paragraph should be as follows: "She reported two Black-capped Chickadees banded at the same place in Ontario on 28 April 1962 and re-encountered on 11 and 18 May 1962 at a location 131 miles (211 km) ENE from their banding place. It is strongly suggested that the two birds made their northward flights together.

The last sentence in the third paragraph should read as follows: "Certainly the indicated southward movement of Black-capped Chickadees during the spring presents an anomaly worthy of comment."

The editor is sorry for any misconceptions this may have caused.

EBBA'S ANNUAL MEETING

The Eastern Bird Banding Association's annual meeting was held on April 22, 23, and 24, 1988, at Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingman's Ferry, Pennsylvania.

Workshops included:



Mickie Mutchler handling registration. (Mickie is the new membership chairperson.)



Aging and Sexing Waterfowl - Fred Hartman



President Judy Bell (left) looks on as Ruth Rose presents Dorothy Bordner with an honorary membership to EBBA.



Auxiliary Marking - Danny Bystrak



Using Computers to Record Returns - Valerie Freer



Aging and Sexing Passerines Using the Bird Banding Manual, Vol. 2 - Hannah Suthers



Mist Nets and Netting for Beginners and Intermediates
- Robert Yunick

Taped Shrike Call and Decoy as Possible Lures for Trapping Loggerhead Shrikes

On 15 February 1987, the author and an observer tested the use of a shrike decoy and taped call as possible lures for trapping Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*). The decoy was a painted life-sized model of a perched shrike made from ordinary modeling clay. The tape was made from a five-second call taken from The Peterson Field Guide Series entitled, "Field Guide to Bird Songs of Eastern and Central North America," and recorded on a 15-second answering service loop tape. The test site was located in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, in a shrike territory that was occupied at least a month prior to the test.

At 1520 we scanned the territory and observed a shrike perched approximately 30m from the road. We placed the decoy on a fence post along the road and put the tape in a pocket-sized Sony cassette recorder in the grass at the base of the post. When the tape was played, we moved back along the road about 50m and observed from the truck. Immediately, another shrike perched in a tree top within 30m. Both then flew about 100m, and one was observed perched in a tree again. At 1535 we approached the decoy in the truck and saw both shrikes flying towards it. As we watched from about 10m, the shrike we believed to be a male, perched on a utility wire 15m from the decoy and sang, while the other perched in a tree 30m away. At 1540 the shrike in the tree (female) flew to the decoy and perched on the fence under the decoy but above the tape. It appeared confused and hopped back and forth six times between the tape and decoy. At 1547 the female landed next to the decoy on the fence post. This appeared to stimulate the male to fly down to the fence and give a "buzz" call. Two minutes later, the female flew from the post, and simultaneously the male attacked the decoy striking it behind the head and knocking it on its side.

The clay decoy was replaced with a stronger wooden decoy and the technique was tested in York County South Carolina between 15 February 1987 and 14

April 1987. Of the six tests conducted, shrikes were attracted within several meters of the lures four times (67%). The response was stronger early in the nesting season when males were singing regularly, so this technique may be effective only during that time period. Although these tests were of a preliminary nature, I believe this technique could be useful in luring shrikes to traps. With further research, it may also prove effective with other species as well.

I would like to thank Pat Ferral for his assistance in the field and Robert Woerner for the use of his cassette recorder. Albert Conway and Keith Bildstein provided useful comments on this paper.

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