Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association **Founded 1923**

President's Message

It has been a pleasure serving as EBBA's president this past year. All the officers and councilors have done a fantastic job, which made my job much easier. Special thanks to Bob McKinney for his dedication as our secretary and to Gale Smith for his continued perseverance as Chair of EBBA's Net Committee.

I especially want to thank Bob Pantle for his efforts to make the *North American Bird Bander* a first-rate journal meeting the needs of all banders. But he needs our help. You can make a real contribution by writing and submitting the results of your banding research projects, by urging your students and fellow-banders to do the same, and by submitting articles on innovative banding techniques or equipment you may have discovered. That way, Bob will have a continuous pool of prospective papers and articles from which to choose.

During this exciting and challenging period of change, which includes new cooperative banding projects, the North American Banding Council's efforts toward better bander training, BANDMANAGER, web pages, and electronic communication with the Banding Lab, it's important not to forget our roots. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the master banders who took us on as subpermittees and all those who came before us. We need to remember those people and, if possible, continue to make them aware of their importance in our lives.

Alan Gehret had an exciting and successful annual meeting on 14-16 April 2000 in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. It was great seeing so many people take advantage of this informative meeting. Ken Heselton is already hard at work planning for the 2001 meeting at Harford Glen, Maryland. Make plans now to attend.

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 1999

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The fall of 1999 witnessed the most intensive migration of the decade. Many species were banded in record numbers and records were rewritten at many stations. The highlight of a stellar season starred the Black-capped Chickadee. Breeding season evidence of a high success rate in the region was further supported by a tremendous irruption of more northern chickadees during October. Large numbers were banded in the Rochester area and within a few weeks the horde had descended southeasterly to the southern tier where many more were banded.

A widespread drought devastated the region. Dry conditions during the second half of 1998 served as preface to the 1999 drought. After a wet January 1999, the months February through August received only 76 percent of normal precipitation, making it the driest period in the 105