



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

SUMMARY OF 24-26 MARCH 2006 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

held at
Best Western Motel
Bethlehem, PA

“The Value of Diverse Avian Monitoring Techniques”

President's Report: *Betsy Brooks* opened the meeting by thanking Tom Greg for his work in putting together another successful meeting. She also thanked all the officers and councilors, especially Gale Smith, Bob Pantle, and Bob Yunick. We are in need of an historian to take care of historical records. Also, we are looking for someone who can help in marketing mist nets, monographs, and NABB advertising. Cards were out to be signed for Edith Andrews, who is 90 years old and Ralph Bell who is 91.

First Vice President: *Tom Greg* reported that about 90 people are in attendance. He thanked everyone for attending. He thanked Don and Elaine Mease, Margaret Fritze, and Bob Pantle for their assistance in organizing the meeting.

Second Vice President: *Susan Finnegan* stated that the meeting next year will be held at **Brewster, MA**, the weekend of 23-25 Mar.

Third Vice President: *John Tautin* reported that the **2008 meeting** will be held at the new Tom Ridge Environmental Center in Erie, PA, around early- to mid-April.

Treasurer: *Don Mease* reported that this year's income covered expenses and that this is the first year when we have excess interest from the Frazier Fund.

Editor: *Bob Pantle* reported that there is a need for manuscripts from EBBA members. He stated that many articles have been submitted to the “News, Notes and Comments” section. He also noted that the first 25 volumes of *NABB* are on SORA (Searchable Ornithological Research Archives) at the Banding Lab's expense. Costs of undeliverable returned journals are extremely high. Report accepted.

Nominating Committee: *Robert Yunick* announced the 2006/2007 candidates for officers and councilors, which were accepted as presented:

President:	Thomas Greg
1st Vice President	Susan Finnegan
2nd Vice President	John Tautin
3rd Vice President	David Hauber
Secretary	Gerald Lahr
Treasurer	Donald Mease

Councilor 2007 Thomas LeBlanc
(replacing David Hauber)
Councilors 2009 Anthony Hill (1st term)
William Hobbs (1st term)
Mary Doscher (2nd term)
Ted Hicks (1st term)

Publication & Membership: *Elaine Mease* reported that there are 11 new members this year putting our membership at about 337, which is down considerably from 25 years ago, when we had over 600 members.

Memorial Grant Committee: *Elizabeth Brooks* reported that nine applications were submitted of which the following two were selected:

"Influence of an ecological barrier on directional decisions on nocturnal migrants" submitted by *Kristen Covino* of the University of Maine.

"Estimating the demographic consequences of wetland fragmentation: movement and survival patterns in a threatened salt marsh bird" submitted by *Jason Hill* of the University of Connecticut.

Net Committee: *Gale Smith* reported that the net committee now has three other members: Bob Yunick, Dave Hauber, and Don Mease. Last year we sold \$19,800 in nets. Gale also noted that credit card sales are now available.

NABC Delegate Report: *Mary Doscher* stated that the banding council will be meeting next week in Arizona.

Bander Certification: *Betsy Brooks* and *Bob Yunick* reported that two banders and three trainers have been certified this year. (Six trainers participated in the process.) In total, 25 banders and five trainers have been certified on behalf of EBBA.

Emblem Committee: *Tom LeBlanc* reported that the council has accepted a new emblem. A by-law change is required. Prior to the next meeting, a proposed amendment will be sent to all members so that the change may be voted on next year.

Strategic Planning Committee: *Betsy Brooks* stated that a Strategic Planning Committee exists but a chairperson is needed.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS PRESENTED AT EBBA's 24-26 MAR 2006 MEETING

"The Value of Diverse Avian Monitoring Techniques Abstracts"

"The Visible Night Migration of Birds Observed from the Empire State Building 2004-2005" — Robert DeCandido, PhD Research Associate Scientist, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Kempton, PA.

Most people in the developed world live in a city, yet today scientists do not frequently study urban parks and the birds found there. In the past in New York City, urban naturalists compiled extensive historical records about bird species and the relative number of migrants and residents. This makes it possible for contemporary scientists to look at long-term changes in the city's avifauna, and possibly determine why changes have occurred. For example, at one time at least 15 warbler species bred in New York City. Peregrine Falcons rarely nested here. During the last decade, we have had the opportunity to study nesting warblers, Peregrines and other raptors. Some of these are new residents in New York City, while others have increased significantly in abundance. In this slide talk, we will show some of the positive and negative changes in bird species diversity in New York during the last century. Also, in 2004-2005, we have been studying the night migration of birds from the Observation Deck of the Empire State Building. We counted over 30,000 migrants—with a high count of 15,000+ migrants in autumn 2005. On one evening, we saw birds passing at the rate of one migrant every four seconds. We also observed Peregrine Falcons regularly chasing and capturing migrants from August through mid-November, but rarely in spring. We occasionally observed nocturnal raptors (owls) and even one diurnal species (Osprey) in migration at night. Skyscrapers and other tall buildings are suspected of indirectly killing many hundreds of night migrating birds in New York City and other metropolitan areas. Our results indicate this is not the case in New York City. Rather, the observation deck of the Empire