

THOUGHTS ON THE ANNUAL MEETING - BY A VETERAN AND BY A NEW MEMBER

BENEFITS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

By Marie Dumont

There are many benefits to be derived from such a meeting, both for banders of just a year or two, or for banders like myself, of 29 years standing. If a person is interested in his or her avocation one can always obtain new ideas from others.

To mention just a few of the benefits - every bander has his or her own way of handling birds while banding. There is also a lot to be gained by closely observing the various methods of trap construction, and of receiving and carrying cages.

Another demonstration from which I gained a great deal is the proper setting up of mist nets and the simple way of removing the netted birds from the nets. Another item of great interest to this bander was the information on sexing and aging of warblers.

While each of us no doubt has our own preference for banding tools and cases for holding bands and tools, still one can always find something new in that line by looking over the display of such items at the annual meeting.

The early morning bird walks, with competent leaders, help one to add new species to one's life list, and know the familiar ones better.

And last but not least, there is a lot to be gained in knowledge and enjoyment from the person to person talks and conversation with fellow banders, about the various problems one has, and getting the other's viewpoint on all phases of banding.

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ANNUAL MEETING - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

By Christopher N. Rose

Like many of you, my wife and I looked forward to attending "our first" Annual Meeting of EBBA at Cape May. However, as new members, I'm sure we speculated a bit more on what we might expect, how much we hoped we had to learn, without revealing ourselves as "greenhorns". Any qualms we might have had were dispelled at registration by the friendly manner in which we were received - we were made to feel that there are no "new" members in EBBA.

We were most impressed at the very beginning with the manner and efficiency with which the program began to unroll, especially in light