

O.R. CORNER - O.R. 1967

By Robert P. Yunick

For over a year, some thought has been given to a regularly appearing column in EBBA News on Operation Recovery - station reports, news, requests for help, etc. A number of station leaders and participants have contributed fine articles from time to time in the past on their experiences and results. In general, however, EBBA members outside of O.R. participants have not been aware of the full scope of O.R. efforts in the East. It is hoped that this column can make more people aware of what O.R. cooperators are doing, and what needs to be done. It can serve as an exchange for ideas, problems, unique experiences and information in general. Hopefully, station reports will continue as in the past. In addition it is hoped that some kind of brief summary listing the highlights of the year will be obtained from each station in the eastern United States.

To accomplish this exchange will require the cooperation of each station leader. Therefore, I solicit your help, suggestions and criticisms. With this brief preamble, we begin.

For the first order of business, it is time to start thinking about the "who, what, when, where & how" of O.R. '67. As for the "who", I should like to offer that the next column in the July-August issue list the stations which are in need of volunteer help. Therefore, if you need help, send me a brief note on station location, leader and address, dates of operation, any special regulations and need for banders, recorders, etc. (See The President's Message in this regard. -Ed.)

As for the "what", it's time for people to take the purpose of O.R. more seriously - its intent is not to band more birds, but to gather data on birds and do something with that data. This means more birds should be totally processed - aged, sexed, weighed, measured, etc. - and not necessarily more birds banded. Anything short of this cooperation is a burden on the program. In addition, at those stations where a wealth of data have been collected and lie dormant, some thought should be given to processing these data in lieu of banding more birds. This will lead to hypotheses demanding further substantiation, the pursuit of which will lead to more productive banding, focused on an objective.

As for the "when" and "where", take advantage of this column to advertise your station to let others know when and where you operate. Hopefully, a little later in the year, the station summary sheet for 1966 will appear here listing all stations, leaders and total birds banded.

How do you operate your station - facilitate maximum efficiency during waves - weigh birds - store birds during peak periods? Drop me a note on persistent problems or solutions you have for such problems.

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