

that illustrated what can be done by a devoted group of people to elevate this nation's awareness of its environment.

To outgoing council member Dorothy Bordner, who has served in the offices of secretary and councillor during the past eight years, go our thanks and appreciation for her giving of her time and energy to EBBA.

On behalf of the other officers and councillors, thank you for your support in election and re-election to our positions.

Dr. Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron St., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

### THE EBBA ANNUAL MEETING, 1969

By Dorothy Bordner

The 1969 annual meeting was held at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. Our host organization, the Delmarva Ornithological Society, had things very well organized. (The only hitch in the weekend was the usual one of a restaurant not expecting so many "crazy" people to get up at 6:00 am. to watch birds!) Friday registration and dinner were held in the Student Center, as was the Council meeting both before and after dinner. This was followed by a reception featuring banding equipment exhibits, an enjoyable short film of a previous EBBA meeting made by Ralph Bell, and an excellent slide program.

The Saturday morning session opened at the Student Center with a welcome by Dr. Donald Crossan, Assistant Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Delaware. After a response by EBBA President Robert Yunick, the annual business meeting was held, the minutes of which appear elsewhere in this issue.

The papers session began with Dr. Jeff Swinebroad who spoke on "Local Extinction of Red-eyed Vireos". The study area considered is the Hutcheson Memorial Forest which many members visited during the EBBA meeting at Rutgers University. It is small, but relatively undisturbed since the 1600's. Over the last ten years both singing male counts and netting have been done. From 1958 to 1962 the Red-eyed Vireo numbers remained relatively constant at 33 territories with about 60 individuals. In 1968 there were no singing males and none caught in nets. Other species showing a similar decline were the Black & White Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Singing male counts for the Wood Thrush and Ovenbird remained about constant, but the numbers netted declined drastically. It was hypothesized that for these species all territories were occupied in 1958 and there was a surplus of birds: now the surplus has been slowly declining while the number of occupied territories has been constant. Two questions were then raised: what has caused it - Cowbirds, pesticides, presence of the study group or normal fluctuation? How widespread is it? It is not an isolated situation and further study will be made.

The Manomet Bird Observatory was the topic of two papers with Mr. John Fiske reporting on the plans for development of the property which includes a vast range of habitat in a small area, and Mrs. Kathleen Anderson reporting on the scientific and educational programs. At Manomet, long continued data will be obtained from the same location. It will serve as a training ground for new banders, a location for teachers to get instruction in the field, and later for children to come with the teachers for instruction. There is room for a restricted netting area and an open area for the children to explore.

Mr. Earl Baysinger gave "remarks from the Banding Office". Perhaps the most important banding development in recent years has been the establishment of the Manomet and Point Reyes Observatories. During the past year 124 new permits and 166 sub-permits were issued. Also, during the past year 126 banders became inactive and five permits were revoked. It is now recommended that new banders be sub-permittees before being issued a permit. Other comments are contained in the latest MTAB which is now in banders' hands.

"Crows" were the topic of Mr. Ralph Bell's talk and film. From 1956 to 1964, 501 adult Crows were banded in Greene County, Pa., and their later records were discussed. Average age of recoveries was 2 yr. 53 days. The oldest was 10 yrs. 53 days. The recoveries followed a N.E.-S.W. line as does the recovery pattern of many other species of birds wintering in this area.

Mr. Frederic M. Stiner spoke on "Protocalliphora", the insects whose larvae are blood suckers of nestlings. Four hosts were reported - Wood Thrush, Grackle, Bluebird and Cardinal - with the highest percentage of parasitism from the Bluebird nests. There was no evidence in the study that the larvae were directly responsible for the death of any nestlings. For each larva found on a nestling there are usually several in the nest lining in either the larval or pupa stage. Little work has been done on this group of insects and any reports that banders can make will be welcomed. Larvae can be sent in alcohol to Mr. Curtis Sabrosky, U.S. National Museum; pupa or adult stages can be sent dry. Included with the specimen should be the date and location of collection, host bird species, and which part of the bird the larva was sucking if attached. It should also be mentioned that the sender is a bander and therefore knows birds!

Mr. David E. Samuel discussed a study of Cliff Swallows in a relatively small colony in West Virginia. The cause of nesting failure was House Sparrows in most cases.

Dr. Charles H. Blake gave an interesting paper on using banding returns to calculate survival rates in birds, using statistical methods. I hope this will be published in its entirety because it cannot be done justice in shortened form.

The afternoon workshop was divided into two sessions. The novice session included the use of traps and nets and methods of aging and sexing birds by Dr. Charles H. Blake; basic data interpretation, record keeping and project planning by Dr. Mary H. Clench; and identifying difficult species by Mr. Robert C. Leberman. The advanced session considered the construction and use of Bal-chatri traps for birds of prey, and the identification of hawks and owls in the hand by Mr. William S. Clark; the varieties of nets now available from EBBA and their uses by Dr. Robert Merritt; and banding and conservation by Mrs. Kathleen S. Anderson. An interesting tour of the University of Delaware Woodlot ecology project was also included on the afternoon agenda.

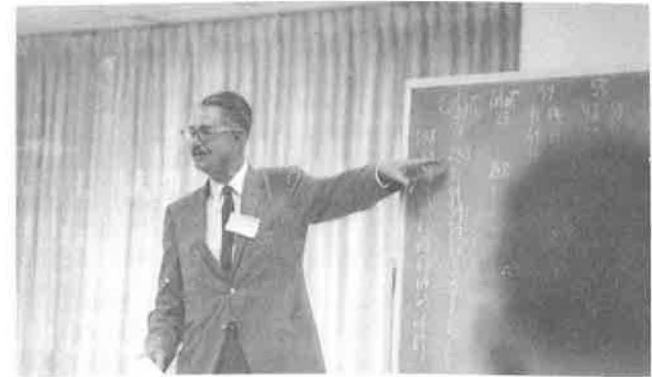
The banquet was held buffet style at Howard Johnsons with the invocation given by Mr. Raymond Middleton. After dinner a Bluebird house was presented to the last person to go through the dinner line. Gifts were presented to Mrs. Elise Dickerson and Mrs. Mabel Warburton, the retired directors of Island Beach O.R. station, by Mr. Frank Frazier (Sr.) on behalf of the banders and helpers at IBOR. This was followed by an auction of EBBA ashtrays for the benefit of the Memorial Fund. The auction was conducted by Mr. John Schmid in his usual inimitable fashion and netted fifty dollars for the fund. Afterward, Mr. Charles Mohr showed slides on telling the public about our natural environment. The talk detailed the work of the Delaware Nature Education Center.

After breakfast on Sunday, members gathered at the Horne's Motel parking lot for field trips and caravans left for the Delaware Nature Education Center, Bombay Hook Refuge for birding, and for the Mendinhalls' Banding station "Damsite" in Chestertown, Maryland.

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Left: Chan Robbins introducing Scandinavian visitors. Right: Auctioneer John Schmid at the banquet. (Photos by FPF Sr.)



Top to bottom, left: President Bob Yunick listens as Wilde Mellencamp reads the minutes; Dr. Charles Blake expounding on statistics; field trip led by Ed Strickland at Cape Henlopen, Del. (GWJ). Right: at the podium - Ralph Bell, Earl Baysinger, Jeff Swinebroad. (GWJ photo by G.W. Johnson, others by FPF Jr.) Following page - the Rose's & Schnitzer's at the banquet; the Council meeting; center: Bob Leberman's workshop session; view of the general meeting (photos by FPF Sr.); bottom: retiring IBOR directors receiving gifts; Mabel Gillespie, Earl Baysinger et al. at banquet (photos by John Schmid).

