

WOOD, M. 1969. A bird bander's guide to determination of age and sex of selected bird species. College of Agriculture, Penn. State Univ., Univ. Park.

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EDITORIAL

Having served as editor of the *Journal of Field Ornithology* for the past five volumes, there is a certain nostalgic feeling about passing the editorial pen on to my successor. I have enjoyed working with the officers of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, authors, reviewers, associate editors, editorial assistants, and many wonderful people at Allen Press. I owe special debts of gratitude to the NEBBA Council for their constant support; to Review Editor Jed Burtt who has nurtured the continuing growth of our unique and highly valued review section; and to my wife, Bette, who has not only endured my absences due to editorial duties, but who has contributed immensely as an Associate Editor. My thanks to Allen Press, however, are given with the greatest feeling of respect. I have served in an editorial capacity for journals published by Allen Press for the past 20 years. No editor could ask for more from a publisher than the quality final product and friendly, personal service that Allen Press provides.

Where has the *Journal of Field Ornithology* been and where is it going? My predecessor, David Johnston, and the NEBBA Council, had the wisdom to change the *Journal's* name—because the *Journal* had changed. Indeed, ornithology has changed. Bird banding has gone from a backyard pastime and tool of a few ornithologists, to being an important tool of most field ornithologists. However, it is not the only tool. Indeed, it is not the only important way of marking birds for study. Various wing tags, dyes, radio-transmitters, and now radio-isotopes and fluorescent chemicals are used. Thus, the name Bird-Banding had become a restrictive misnomer. Fortunately editorial policies did not restrict subject matter to that implied by the title. As the *Journal of Field Ornithology*, our publication has grown in stature and is perhaps becoming more of an international journal than other North American journals. The past five volumes of the *Journal* have included authors from at least 45 states, 8 Canadian provinces and 17 countries. As might be expected, the *Journal* has also grown in size: to an average of 467 pages per volume since 1981, from an average of 408 pages per volume in the preceding five years. We can all be proud of the increased role that our journal is playing in world ornithology. Recently our president, John Kricher, suggested that NEBBA change its name to the "Association of Field Ornithologists"—a name which he argues would better indicate our broadened focus and perspectives. I strongly endorse his suggestion.

Finally, I feel that the *Journal* is in good hands with our new editor, Jed Burtt, who has been intimately involved with the *Journal* under the past two editors.—Jerome A. Jackson.