



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

President — T.A. Beckett, III, Magnolia Gardens, Rt. 4, Charleston, SC 29407

First Vice-President — Robert J. Pantle, R.D. 1, Candor, NY 13743

Second Vice-President — Valerie M. Freer, RFD 1, Box 21G, Ellenville, NY 12428

Third Vice-President — Kathleen Klimkiewicz, 13117 Larchdale Road #2, Laurel, MD 20811

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Treasurer — Davis H. Corkran, 154 Lake Avenue, Fair Haven, NJ 07701

Editor — Nadia M. Mutchler, c/o Hartwood Club, Box 212X, RD 1, Monticello, NY 12701

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Eastern Regional News is published quarterly in *North American Bird Bander* by the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Applications for membership and changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer. The dues: Active Members — \$6.00 per year; Sustaining Members — \$12.00 per year; Student Members — \$4.50 per year; Life/Membership — \$150.00. Canadian and foreign memberships add \$2.00. Contributions to the Eastern Bird Banding Association are tax deductible.

From the President

As your president I feel that I owe the membership an explanation of what happened to the general dues increase voted on and approved at our last annual meeting.

I will not go into great detail regarding the necessity to rescind the action by your officers and councillors but will state that there was a serious mistake regarding our understanding of our merger with our friends on the west coast.

In order for both groups to have a clear understanding of what our merger consists, I am appointing a committee to place in writing a mutual agreement that will cover all foreseeable circumstances that might arise. Dr. Collins is also appointing a committee to mutually formulate the agreements and prevent any further misunderstandings.

I would like to let the membership know that we can operate within our budget for this year with some "belt tightening." Our treasurer, Dave Corkran, assures me that we are fiscally sound but we do need new members if we are to continue to improve the journal and accomplish outside projects requiring money.

I regret to report that one of EBBA's most active banders has found it necessary to resign due to her new position as biologist in the Banding Laboratory. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, our Third Vice-President, had done more to develop an active regional group than anyone I know. She has always been willing to assist new banders and stands ready to assist those interested in forming local study groups. EBBA's loss is George Jonkel's gain.

I appreciate the large number of people who have responded to the inserts asking for volunteers to serve on committees. It has not been possible to take advantage of all of their offers, since committees were largely set up in my initial term of office, nor have I found time to write and thank each one for his offer. However, I do hope they will realize that their efforts to serve have not been ignored.

Let's all try to come up with future sites for our annual meetings. It would be nice to have a known meeting site at least three years in advance.

T.A. Beckett III

Who Is...?

Davis Corkran

Davis Corkran is our treasurer and lives in Fair Haven, NJ, with wife Ruth (a silent EBBA working partner). Professionally Dave is a Sr. Contract Administrator for a manufacturer of scientific computer systems, including digital, analog and hybrids, and producers of power plant and flight simulators. He served 38 months of destroyer duty in the Pacific theatre during World War II.

His banding interests started first through curiosity, then assisting Dr. John Weske during Dave's vacations in Maine, 1958 through 1961. Presently he is head bander of a station at the Gateway National Recreational Area, Sandy Hook Division, located on the New Jersey coast.

Dave's special interests through banding are the local Mourning Dove and cowbird populations, nocturnal birds, and the age/sex ratios of fall migrants. His other hobbies are amateur radio operating (call of W2YLS), bowling, fishing, and sports in general.

Call for Papers

Anyone wishing to present a paper at the 1978 Conference in Wilmington, NC should contact: Elva Hawken, R.D. 2, Echo Rd. Vestal, NY 13850 before January 15. Please submit an outline of your paper.



Another member writes:

Jerauld A. Manter recently submitted his "Birds of Storrs, Conn. & Vicinity" for review.

The editor recommends this thick pamphlet to people in Connecticut for its local information and to people planning to visit the general area for the well-presented information and the annotated check list of birds. Available from: Natchaug Ornithological Society, Storrs, Conn. 06268 for \$3.00.

Tales from Kiptopeke

Tale teller: *Walter P. Smith*

The Crystal Ball

I often hear, "Look forward, never back".
I'm surely getting old, for it's a fact
Nostalgia brings more pleasure than the thought
With what tomorrow's living may be fraught.
Our hopes may rest on future dice we cast,
But knowledge is acquired just from the past.

It is wintertime now, and as I sit at home, looking out over Chesapeake Bay, I can hear that cold east wind moaning past the house eaves and whipping up white topping on the gray waves. These are the days when my thoughts turn automatically to Kiptopeke.

I can envision a beautiful little Black-throated Blue Warbler in the net — can almost feel its frightened pulse as I remove it. I can feel the sultry oppression of an early Fall day, and the annoyance of mosquitos and black flies — which disappears like a magic puff of wind when my adrenalin surges at the sight of a net full of birds. I can picture a Sharp-shinned Hawk, hurtling through the woods at a mile-a-minute in hot pursuit of a tiny warbler, hitting one of the nets and stretching it, unbelievably, fully six feet in front of him before it snaps back to enmesh him. I even imagine I can hear, borne my way by the steady east wind, that utterly wild music of the first skein of Canada Geese heading southward high overhead — unseen usually, but always heard with heartfelt thanks.

I can see the Banding Area on a Flight Day, our friends scurrying about for all the world like a nest of "Ant Workers." The holding cages are overflowing into the collecting bags, and I am acutely conscious of the ache in my back because as BIC (Bander-in-Charge) I am too busy to "take five".

I can lean back in my chair, raise my eyes to Heaven, and picture in my mind's eye — a tower-

ing white mushroom cloud, at the base of which tiny specks become, through my binoculars, a kettle of several hundred Broad-winged Hawks. They circle slowly, higher and higher, and finally peel off and glide swiftly southward on outstretched, motionless wings, fading into the distant horizon.

So my wandering mind makes full circle, back to the present, and on beyond. What lies in store for our Kiptopeke Station? Historically, most of the large Banding Stations on the East Coast have grown to a point of becoming unwieldy, with factions developing within the organization eventually causing dissension and, ultimately, disintegration. I like to think that we won't allow that to happen to us, and that we have many more good years ahead.

Right now, I prefer to consider only next year — How many birds and what new species will wend our way? Will we have more Foreign Recoveries, and will we hear from many of the birds we've banded in the past? When we reassemble in the Autumn, will any of our good friends be missing?

In looking back over what I have written, I suppose, in some respects, I may have been a little bit selfish, for the recollections have certainly afforded me personal pleasure. I have readily admitted an obsession with Kiptopeke. It wasn't always this way — but rather has become an acquired thing. It has grown, if anything, instead of waning as you might expect, as I have come, through the years, to understand and appreciate the singular qualities of the place.

And I do think these tales need telling. Should anyone who might read them get even a small amount of appreciation for Kiptopeke out of them, then I will truly have accomplished what I set out to do.

