

# Eastern Regional News

**Eastern Bird Banding Association**

Founded 1923

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## President's Message

Bird banders become involved very quickly in broader aspects of volunteer bird study. We cannot always predict what we are going to get into! But our openness augments our contributions to ornithology.

As soon as the neighborhood discovers that there is a bird person among them, people are at the door with sick, injured, or orphaned cases. We frequently supervise the return of the fledgling to parents, or help locate the nearest avian rehabilitator or get the Federal Special Purpose and state Rehabilitation Permits ourselves. We can provide an important service to the rehabilitators by banding their birds upon release. Then important follow-up information becomes possible on the welfare and success of these birds after release. For example, a Brown Pelican lived 4 years after treatment and release, a Laughing Gull lived nearly 4 years, an Osprey, Barn Owl, and Red-shouldered Hawk each 5 years, a Redwinged Blackbird was encountered alive after 5 years. A hand-raised Blue Jay lived 6 years, a Common Grackle 8 years, and an American Robin 4 years. How else have these data been available except that bird banders have cooperated with the rehabilitators. Keep up the good work!

Then come the inquiries for the nearest bander willing to give talks, demonstrations, receive visitors at the station, or to take on an apprentice. These inquiries also come to your President who then writes the nearest bander to get in touch with the person inquiring. For your openness and cooperation, thank you! Good public relations strengthen the bird banding program.

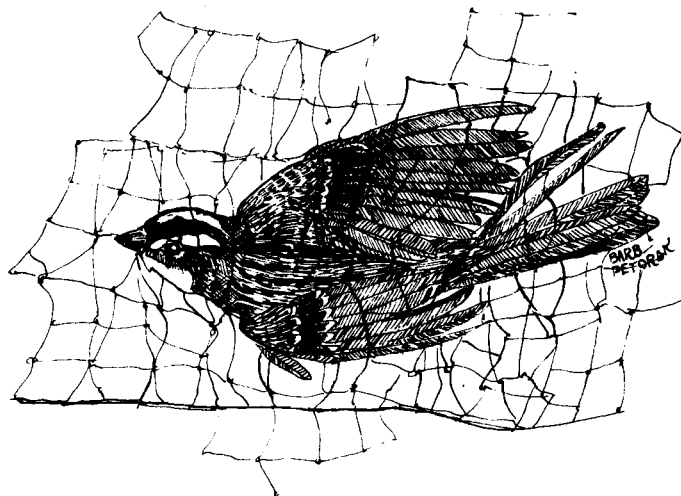
Sometimes we are called upon to write letters. There is the situation where a national wildlife refuge, restrictive to banders, bought land on which a long-term banding project was well under way and cut off the bander at the point where he would be seeing results. Letters and phone calls helped restore the bander to his project and opened the refuge to a nearby state university as well.

How many of us are involved in the State Breeding Bird Atlas? This is a five-year project to verify breeding birds in your state in each of the geographic quadrangles. The objects are to delineate the distribution of all breeding birds in the state, to identify species and/or habitats which warrant intensive studies or protection, and to provide baseline ecological data against which future environmental change can be measured. Banders can very quickly verify breeding birds by reporting captures of birds with brood patches or cloacal protuberances, or young fledglings still in parental care.

Finally, we are encouraged to write up our projects and data and interesting notes for publication in NABB.

Here's to significant involvement!

Hannah Suthers



## EBBA Meeting up-date

Although the timing and location of the Annual Meeting have not been changed, the name of the Dover Inn has. The meeting place is now known as Econo-Lodge of Dover. Address: 561 N. duPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901. Phone 302-678-8900.