

the same way. In contrast to Hermit Thrushes, Wilson's Warblers now arrive 4.5 days later in spring, with no significant change in fall departure date. We speculate that short- and long-distance migrants may face different conditions that influence their ability to adjust their migration timing.

**Post-fledging movement of adult female Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows - Jason Hill and Chris Elphick**, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Few studies have examined the detailed movements of attending parents during the postfledging period. I used an information theoretic approach to compare a suite of *a priori* candidate models in their ability to explain postfledging movement behavior of radio-tagged adult female Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). In this species, both sexes are nonterritorial and have overlapping home ranges. Males do not provide any parental care and, therefore, were not included in this study. I quantified female postfledging movement with three separate measurements: total spatial use, distance from the nest, and distance moved between days. Given our data and the models tested, our results suggest that adult postfledging Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow movement is best explained as a function of the amount of natural and manmade water features within a female's home range. Previously, the abundance of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows has been associated negatively with marsh size, but models incorporating marsh size, capture weight, or the date of the movements were absolutely and comparatively poor predictors of female spatial use. Further analysis demonstrated that the length of manmade water features within a female's home range was greater than a random area of equal size within the same marsh, but this difference was not significant. Future modeling of Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow habitat selection

should help delineate between selection for the water features themselves or the plant species and vegetation structure associated with those features.

**Long-term banding and current studies of Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) parentage, dispersal, and survival - Emily K. Pifer**, Purple Martin Conservation Association, Erie, PA

East of the Rocky Mountains, Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) nest almost exclusively in housing provided by humans. This dependency, their tractable nature, and their strong fidelity to nesting colonies, make Purple Martins ready subjects for banding based studies. The Purple Martin Conservation Association has been banding martins since 1995, totaling over 14,000. The PMCA along with researchers from York University in Toronto, Ontario, are studying parentage, survival, and dispersal in Purple Martins. As in many species of birds, martins engage in extra-pair copulations, resulting in males providing for young that are not necessarily their own. In 2006 and 2007, we took blood samples from 287 complete family sets to study parentage. Radio transmitters were attached to 16 fledgling martins for the 2007 season to study post-fledging dispersal. Results from the Purple Martin Conservation Association's long-term banding program, as well as preliminary results from genetic and radio telemetry studies are presented.

**50 Years of Bird Banding at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory - Ralph K. Bell**, Clarksville, PA, and **Joan Bell Pattison**, Fort Myers, FL

A pictorial history of the founding, purpose, evolution, staffing and accomplishments of the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory is presented.

## APPLYING FOR RESEARCH AWARDS

The Eastern Bird Banding Association seeks applicants for its annual research awards (this year two \$1000 and one \$500 awards were given) in aid of research using banding techniques or bird banding data. Applicants should submit a resume of their banding and ornithological background, the project plan including the significance of the study

site, and a budget. No formal application forms are necessary; however, two copies of each application are required. Grant requests must be received by 15 Mar each year with award announcements 30 Apr.

Preference is given but not limited to research in eastern United States, or with species

that spend part of their life there. Projects that are planned for other portions of the United States, North America, or the Western Hemisphere also may be considered. Research studies with conservation or management implications are particularly encouraged.

Grantees are encouraged to present at least part of their study results at an annual EBBA meeting. Travel grants for this purpose are

available, in addition to the Memorial Grant for the research. Also, grantees are encouraged to become members of EBBA.

Send applications/inquiries to:

EBBA Memorial Grants Chairperson

**Elizabeth W. Brooks**

5540 Jericho Hill Road

Alfred Station, NY 14803

ebooks@bbbo.org

## Harriet Marsi

1912 - 2008



Harriet was a long-time bander in the Southern Tier of New York state, over 45 yrs. She was a member of Eastern Bird Banding Association and contributed many years of reports to EBBA's regional section of Atlantic Flyway Review. She is survived by her daughter Gail, son Rick, and two grandchildren.

Bird banding coupled nicely with her interests in conservation. Her list of achievements in conservation in the Southern Tier of NYS projects are many. Perhaps one of the most important of these projects was to convince the NYS DOT to alter their plans to build the new route (Southern Tier Expressway Rt 17) around the Apalachin wetland, instead of through it. Her and a friend's efforts were successful; and to many the saved wetland is referred to as "Harriet's Marsh."

She spent many volunteer hours bringing nature exhibits to the local schools and clubs in the area, inspiring and teaching children about conservation. She was the founder and long-time president of the Naturalist's Club of Broome County, NY, served as the president of the Central New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and as president of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs.

Harriet received many awards for her efforts in conservation; here are two: A special award of merit from the Federal Protection Agency for "significant contributions to a better environment"; and also the Susquehanna Group of the Sierra Club's annual award for environmental achievement.

To know Harriet was to become infected by her enthusiasm and passion for conservation. The local conservation groups as well as the bird banding community have lost a good and loyal friend.

Robert Pantle (EBBA Ed.)