

Timothy's, due to development encroachment, and began to band at the coastal mitigation site at Fort McHenry with Jim Peters and with help from many others.

She also traveled abroad to band birds when there were opportunities to do so. She traveled with Chan Robbins and Barbara Dowell to Puerto Rico and Belize to investigate the relative influence of habitat on site use by resident and migratory bird species. She was very active in the Eastern Bird Banding Association as a councilor and attended meetings throughout the years.

Over the years, we learned a great deal from her. She was extremely knowledgeable in ageing and sexing birds and was always very forthcoming with her knowledge. She also was an advocate of getting younger people interested, as she thought it the best way to help preserve valued natural places and

habitats. She was an environmentalist, but also a realist as she understood the pressures of our society on the environment.

Up until last year, she would sporadically visit our banding station at Eden Mill and seemed to enjoy the time and local environment of the park.

Barbara was a member of the Homeland Garden Club for 20+ years, winning ribbons for her floral displays of azaleas, daffodils, and hostas. She regularly attended the Baltimore Symphony, opera, and theater. She will be greatly missed.

*Acknowledgment: Thanks to Chan Robbins, Barbara Dowell, Dixie Mullineaux, Joy Wheeler, and Catherine Bishop in providing some of the specific information for this memorial.*

*Mark S. Johnson and Sharon Schwemmer*

Excerpts from the  
**EASTERN BIRD BANDING  
ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL  
MEETING MINUTES**

28 Mar 2009

**Meeting Convened:**

On 28 Mar 2009, the Eastern Bird Banding Association held its annual meeting at Wrights' Restaurant, Chincoteague, Virginia.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**President's Report:**

President John Tautin thanked all the officers and councilors for their diligence. He also noted that present today are Danielle Kashube, representing the MAPS project, Danny Bystrak from the Banding Lab, and Bruce Peterjohn, the new Chief of the Banding Lab.

**First Vice President:**

David Hauber thanked all those who are attending with special thanks to all the participants and speakers for making this year's conference a success.

**Second Vice President:**

Ken Heselton announced that the next annual meeting will be held at Rocky Gap State Park, Cumberland, Maryland.

**Third Vice President:**

Bill Hobbs announced that the budget for the year 2009-2010 has been accepted by EBBA's Council, projecting an income of \$16,930 and an estimated expense of \$16,930.

**Treasurer:**

Donald Mease reported that operating income was over \$9,000 and expenses were \$12,000. We are still doing well with net assets of over \$121,000. Copies of the treasurer's report are available to any member who would like a copy.

**Editor:**

In the absence of Bob Pantle, Jerry Lahr reminded everyone that the job of editor is difficult and time consuming. EBBA contributed approximately 40.4% of NABB this year, up from 38% last year. SORA is currently on hold. The printing costs have been stable. Memberships are down again this year. He also noted that there are some possible changes to NABB, notable print size and fonts.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Nominating Committee:**

Jerry Lahr announced the candidates for officers and councilors:

President	David Hauber
First Vice President	Ken Heselton
Second Vice President	William Hobbs
Third Vice President	Margaret Fritze
Secretary	Gerald Lahr
Treasurer	Don Mease
Councilors - 2012	
Ted Hicks	(2nd term)
Anthony Hill	(1st term)
Richard Joos	(1st term)
James Tate	(1st term)

Hannah Suthers to replace Margaret Fritze as Councilor, class of 2010.

**Publication & Membership:**

Elaine Mease noted that there are 326 paid members this year and a list of 16 new members has been posted. She also noted that we lost four members this year. The list of new members was accepted. We need to sell more of the Powdermill monographs, and there are some decals of our new logo available.

**Memorial Grant Committee:**

Elizabeth Brooks reported that 24 applications were submitted, of which the following three were selected by the committee.

1. \$1000 to Allisyn-Marie Tsz Yan Gillet, a graduate student at Columbia University for her study, "Reproductive Effects of Mercury in Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) Breeding in the New York Metropolitan Area."
2. \$500 to Jason Townsend (who also received an EBBA Research Grant in 2005), a graduate student at SUNY-ESF, for his study, "Use of Geo-locator Technology to Determine the Migratory Pathways of a Threatened Songbird (Bicknell's Thrush)."
3. \$1000 to Virginia L. Winder, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, for her study, "Mercury (Hg) levels in feathers and blood of two species of coastal sparrows (*Ammodramus nelsoni* and *A. caudacutus*) from over-wintering and breeding sites (salt marshes along the North Carolina coast and habitat in northern US and Canada, respectively)."

Betsy noted that one of the grants awarded last year was recalled because the awardee changed the project. Betsy requested that the \$1000 award be returned. Therefore, the Grant Committee awarded a fourth grant this year, using the returned \$1000, to Morgan E. Gilmour, a graduate student at Bucknell University, for his study, "Investigating the relationships of winter corticosteroid levels, stable isotope signatures, and reproductive effort of a long-lived seabird, Leach's Storm-Petrel."

**Net Committee:**

Gale Smith reported that EBBA has the best nets available and he has sold over 400 nets in 2008, for a gross of approximately \$25,000. Currently, EBBA has no net supplier. A committee has been appointed to locate a new supplier.

### **NABC Delegate Report:**

Mary Doscher reported that as a NABC representative she attended the 2008 joint meeting with EBBA last year, and reported that several motions had passed which are of general interest. An applicant may now be tested for both bander and trainer level certification in the same session. Trainers may recommend that a bander candidate who fails due to one or two errors be re-evaluated at a later session only on the failed sections. NABC manuals will be made available for downloading from the website.

The 2010 meeting will be held 5 - 7 Mar in Tucson, Arizona. Anthony Hill will be the primary representative to NABC and Mary will be the secondary.

### **Bander Certification:**

Bob Yunick reported that the next session will be at Braddock Bay, 27, 28, and 29 Sep. There will be simultaneous bander and trainer sessions.

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## **EBBA's 85<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING 27-29 MARCH 2009**

### **ABSTRACTS**

#### **Winter Distribution of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow Complex in Virginia**

**Fletcher Smith** - Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Beginning in the winter of 2006, The Center for Conservation Biology at The College of William and Mary initiated a tidal marsh bird trapping study. The primary means used for trapping birds was the rope-drag method. Over 300 high marsh birds have been banded up to March 2009. The primary goal of this project is to determine the distribution of the two species of Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Sedge and Marsh wrens, and other wintering birds occupying tidal marsh habitat in Virginia. Other goals are to determine the relative abundance of each subspecies of Sharp-tailed

Sparrow and to document site fidelity of these species. This project is ongoing and further studies are planned to look at other aspects of the ecology of this group in winter and at migration patterns of these birds.

#### **Color banded American Oystercatchers in Virginia – Where Do They Go From Here?**

**Alexandra L. Wilke** - The Nature Conservancy in Virginia, and **Ruth Boettcher** - Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

The American Oystercatcher is a species of high conservation concern along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States. To address the conservation, research, and management needs of the species, an American Oystercatcher Working Group was formed in 2001 comprised of interested researchers, managers, and students along the coast from Massachusetts south to Florida. One of the most significant accomplishments of the Working Group to date is the adoption, by all members actively banding oystercatchers, of a coordinated color banding protocol and the initiation of a cooperative mark-resight study investigating range-wide movement and dispersal patterns of Atlantic and Gulf Coast oystercatchers. The banding program in Virginia currently consists of partners from The Nature Conservancy in Virginia, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Center for Conservation Biology. Since 2004, we have individually color marked over 420 American Oystercatchers throughout coastal Virginia, with an emphasis on the barrier islands on the eastern shore of the Delmarva Peninsula. The majority of those birds (95%) were banded *as* chicks on natal territories. Resighting efforts both in and out of state during the breeding and nonbreeding seasons have resulted in over 2,000 resights of birds color banded in Virginia. Sixty-eight percent of the total number of birds banded in the state have been resighted at least once. In addition, we have recorded over 500 resights in Virginia of at least 110 individuals banded out of state. While the overall analysis of the Working Group's coopera-