

Here's some important, detailed, very recent advice and instruction from Mr. Seth Low (Director F&WLS at Patuxent Research Refuge):

### WHEN AND HOW TO REPORT RECOVERED BIRD BANDS

1. State the full reading of band.
2. Flatten band and affix it to your letter with scotch-tape. (It will be returned to you if requested.)
3. Give exact date of recovery; day, month, year.
4. State locality where found, giving nearest town —and State and County.
5. State just how band was obtained: trapped, shot, injured, dead, etc.
6. Give full address of person who found or shot this bird.
7. PRINT your permanent address and your full name on your letter.
8. Address your letter: BIRD-BANDING OFFICE, PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, LAUREL, MARYLAND.

All letters will be acknowledged, but do not expect immediate or early reply, as it takes weeks to months to process some reports.

And here's a few reasons why an acknowledgement is not always received by the person who reports a recovered band.

1. Your letter does not reach the banding office at Patuxent.
2. One-third such letters do not provide all the needed information or address, and additional correspondence is necessary.

3. During hunting seasons several thousands of letters pour into this office, and such volume of clerical work cannot be kept currently up by our small staff.

4. Illegible bands (being difficult to process) are subjected to the chemical etching process not oftener than once a year.

And —if you again write (or send additional information) about a reported band, be sure to again state that band's full number as a reference, or it will not be possible to locate your original letter in the vast files.

Bands for next year are now reported to be in full supply. In the past several years the supply often fell below the demand from banders in the field.

**WARNING:** There has been an ominous shortage of notes, queries and information sent in by EBBA members to be published in EBBANEWS. Surely this is your magazine —or nobody's—and if our members in the active field do not supply this Editor with material fit for publication, said Editor will surely quit. (No Editor I have ever heard of —and I've been a writin' feller for years—writes as well as edits his publication.)

—Which brings up the question-and-problem: Wouldn't it be just as well to make the EBBANEWS a bi-monthly? —Cost a lot less. Submitted material might be enough for six issues per year; it is at present not enough for twelve issues. Incidentally, ex-editor Bob Smith writes (in his letter about another topic) "I have always felt the NEWS was pub-