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EBBA'S PRESIDENT SAYS: Elsewhere in this issue the new Banding Manual is discussed in detail. It has been a long wait, but a first rate banding text will more than offset the years in which no Manual was available. Present plans call for a loose-leaf text which will be easy to keep up to date. Chapters on netting, record-keeping, and the interpretation of banding data will be included. If anything is forgotten, or overlooked, you will have only yourself to blame. Your ideas, trap diagrams, and banding tips are needed, and should be mailed to Mr. Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L.I., N.Y. "Jeff" is EBBA's representative on the Banding Manual's editorial staff.

Those of us who began banding in the days when a Manual was sent along with bands and preliminary banding instructions to new banders, will never be able to appreciate the hopeless, "lost" feeling that new banders experience nowadays when they open their first packet from the FWS. Your President's Banding Manual was thumbed almost to pieces during his first banding years. What remained of his tattered banding text was given as a goodbye present to one of the Old World's foremost ornithologists at the end of an enjoyable European banding trek. Recently he has been told that his manual is still in use, and is locked up at night in a steel filing cabinet in one of Europe's most venerable Biological Institutes.

How much banding has changed in the interval between the publication of the two banding guides will be apparent when the two texts can be placed side by side. While we did our gracklesnatching in our back-yards, banding has gradually been shifted from a garden hobby to a major scientific arm in biological research. Today bats are banded, fish are banded, and rabbits are banded. Even flies and mosquitos are marked radio-actively. Banders who have worked in this field since the early days have reason to be proud of their achievements.

But the rise in importance of bird banding in the field of biological study should impress us, as scientific cooperators, with the importance of our work, our record-keeping, and our bird banding techniques. The painstaking trapping and banding of hundreds of birds can be lost in a lost record-book or in hurried notations which cannot be deciphered. The hasty reading of a band, the reliance on memory rather than pencil and paper, the identification of a bird by an assistant, and even the failure to use bifocals (when you pass your 40th birthday) are all pitfalls that lead to scientific errors.

If the backyard bander is to continue to hold his place in the field of college trained biologists, he must do so by turning in the same standards of record-keeping, observations, and trapping techniques. Actually the "backyard bander" often does a better job. He can devote more time to his banding, and keep mortality and morbidity at a minimum. He has time to learn something of the behavior of individuals, before and after banding. And he has a much better opportunity to study family relationships than the professional bander.

When the new banding manual is available, new banders will have an authoritative text to consult. Until the manual is in our hands however, new banders should not hesitate to call on more experienced banders in their own neighborhood, or through the pages of EBBA NEWS, for advice and assistance. Your President has never known any bander who turned a fellow bander down when he asked for help.

## BALTIMORE ORIOLE AND AGED SLATE-COLORED JUNCO AT ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Arthur H. Fast reports that on February 27, 1956, he banded a Baltimore Oriole. It was first observed on February 24. It appeared almost daily (some days many times) thereafter until late March and then less frequently until it was last noted on April 24. It fed exclusively on peanut hearts. It was trapped a second time on March 15 and thus positively identified as the same bird. Dr. John W. Aldrick identified it as probably a female or possibly a young male. It was in unusually in unusually dark plumage.

On February 1, 1947, Fast banded a Slate-colored Junco. It has returned to the place of banding each winter, except one. It was last trapped and released in apparent good condition on December 11, 1955 - on which date it was more than 9 years old. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife