

President

MRS. JOHN Y. DATER, 259 Grove St., Ramsey, N. J.

Secretary

MRS. JOHN C. SCHMID
24 Bowman Drive
Greenwich, Conn.

Treasurer

MRS. STANLEY S. DICKERSON
222 DeVoe Avenue
Spotswood, N. J.

Editor - Frank P. Frazier, 424 Highland Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J.
Co-Editor - Frank P. Frazier, Jr. (temporarily in Army)

EBBA NEWS is published six times a year by the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer. The dues: Active Members \$2 per year; Sustaining Members: \$5 per year. Changes of address should also be sent to the Treasurer.



Now that we have had a sample of what life in the hereafter will be with the Banding Office, I'm beginning to feel there's a danger that bird banding in the U.S. may decline.

I can't help wondering why the schedules were printed with black ink instead of

green, and why two entries are required in each space. It is a well known fact that a bookkeeper is prone to jump a line either up or down when making an entry to the far right of a page on white paper ruled with black. To compensate for this mechanical fault in the human eye, the IBM company makes sheets printed with green ink and with every other writing space a pale green. I understand that firms that use this alternate green and white printed paper have no complaints from their employees and the eye strain is reduced to a minimum.

How many bookkeepers would work for a firm that requires two entries to a space? How do the girls that take off the data from our schedules feel at the end of a day's work?

What is going to happen to Bird Banding and EBBA NEWS? Where are these publications going to get material to fill their pages? With nothing but coordinates given to banders, will the banders be able to do the same amount of research papers? As an example, let us look at the great Bluejay migration in the fall of 1961. No doubt there will be a considerable number of recoveries of this species in the south. These will be reported to the bander in coordinate IBM language, but to the recoverer in English. Perhaps EBBA will report a full page of such coordinates. How significant will that be? Ten years, or five, from now

someone wanting to do a research paper involving this material will be frustrated, to put it mildly, that he cannot sit in a library and use this material intelligently. After a waiting period of a year in the Banding Office the information in English will be filed away on film or some other secret device. It costs money to go to Laurel to do research and the researcher will need a clerk to help untangle or decode the data.

Why the discrimination between the layman and the bander? Can't some mind come up with a satisfactory answer to this problem and unscramble the frustrated, hard working bander? Information valuable to science should not be stored away in obscure places in government buildings. It should be in libraries where anyone can use it. The four banding organizations in the U.S. and one in Canada are constantly training future ornithologists through back yard banding. See EBBA NEWS, Vol. 25, No. 1, page 24 (Frank Frazier) for definition of an ornithologist. With no intelligible recovery records are we going to hold the interest of these budding ornithologists?

If the Department of the Interior feels that they have all the information that they want on "dicky-birds" why don't they say so instead of beating us out of the bush with coordinates? On the other hand, if we are supplying useful information to them, why don't they treat their volunteer help with the same respect as their paid help? What indiscretions have the banders committed (the grapevine hints there are some) to rate this new unilateral system?

Please, Mr. Banding Office give us paper ruled in green ink, one entry to a line and every other space tinted green. Then some place on the recovery report write the name of the town in which the bird was recovered. Is that asking too much of your time and money?

These are my sentiments and those of many OLD time banders that need all the help they can get to make their declining years fun years instead of drudgery.

Eleanor Dater, 259 Grove St., Ramsey, N. J.

IBM RECOVERY REPORT FORMS Quite recently, your Co-Editor visited the Banding Office with these report forms in mind, and spent some time having the system explained. It appears that they may turn out to be not the calamity they seemed to be at first glance. Mr. Allen Duvall, head of the Banding Office, will be on the program at the Annual Meeting and we trust that he will give a thorough explanation of the new systems, and perhaps allay fears about these recovery reports and receive suggestions from banders.

-FPF Jr.
