



THE
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

The big news in this issue is the Eastern Bird Banding Association is incorporated (in the state of New Jersey). This forward step was started by the Council members at the Cape May meeting and completed by Mr. Stanley S. Dickerson. Many thanks go to our lawyer member, Mr. Dickerson, for the time, effort and expense taken by him to get this incorporation.

Incorporation has various financial advantages to the Association and its members. Perhaps of more importance it shows the Eastern Bird Banding Association has become a stable and permanent organization.

From time to time, banders should "take stock" of their activities, to see if they are doing their best. (1) Your time used is probably the maximum you can devote to banding. It may be your vacation period, week-ends or every day. (2) Is the "set-up" efficient? Last summer I found that taking my 18 chardonneret traps off the ground and fastening them to the top of a three-foot fence, at 15 inch intervals, I caught 60 per cent more birds. Also, I enjoyed not having to lean over to take birds out of the trap. Are your traps or nets placed at the best location? (3) What are you really doing? Are you banding more and more, which is useful; or are you learning something on how to catch birds; or are you recording information that might lead to some discovery about birds; or are you taking part in cooperative research? All of this is needed. However, maybe you can find how to get more out of your banding program. (4) Is record keeping efficient? The data recorded should be done accurately in a way that does not use time that might be used otherwise. (5) What are you doing with your records? A stack of data is a joy to behold, but it does not function until published. Write up your work and submit it to the editor of EBBA NEWS. If necessary the editor, or a member of the publication committee, will help you with suggestions on how to put it in proper shape for publication. Some new information in itself may appear to be of little value, but when published it can be picked up as the missing part of a larger puzzle in biology.

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What are you able to contribute to EBBA's next Annual Meeting?
(See the "call for papers" on page 177)