



Sometimes a "yard-stick" is a handy device to measure how our bird-banding stations are doing. In the fourteen years, 1945-1963, in my small backyard bird-banding station, where I use only traps (mostly All-purpose, Chardonneret and Trip-step), I banded 11,281 individuals representing 82 species. Of these birds, 15 per cent repeated one or more times within three months of banding, 2 per cent

returned after an absence of three months, and 1 per cent were recovered outside the ten-minute block where banded. Also, there were 50 foreign recoveries. The species repeating the most was the Purple Finch. The species returning the most was the Catbird. The species to be recovered the most was the Evening Grosbeak. How is your station doing?

Merrill Wood, 811 North Allen St., State College, Pa. (16801)

FRONT COVER The male Snowy Owl pictured on our front cover is from a Kodachrome slide by Richard Cohen. "Getting a presentable picture of the bird was more of a problem than catching it!" he writes. It seems that the photographer's flash was not synchronized; one of Dick's cameras froze and this picture was taken with a second camera in "very poor light". On top of that, the processor lost the original slide after making the color print. The owl was caught on one of two Bal-Chatris walked out to the bird, he writes. Bait in the trap was a pigeon.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Frazier:

Enclosed is my check for Life Membership in the Eastern Bird Banding Association, which you may be good enough to forward for me to the Treasurer.

I am addressing this to you, however, so that you may receive, directly from me, one person's solid, unqualified, and carefully considered vote of confidence in EBBA News in general, and specifically in Mr. G. Hapgood Parks' report on the "Effect of Sprayed Pesticide on Evening Grosbeak Nesting Area."

My one suggestion is that we stop using that innocuous-sounding euphemism, "pesticide," which is a cleverly devised term for brainwashing us into believing that only pests are affected. Let's call it what it is: poison.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Aaron M. Bagg