



The processing of banding schedules at the Bird Banding Laboratory is quite time consuming as all data on the schedules is checked prior to microfilming. We can save ourselves a lot of embarrassment and Ted Van Velzen a lot of headaches by carefully reviewing all entries before submitting schedules.

To start out with, it's a good idea to reread procedures every few years to check what we might be doing wrong. Everytime I read through the procedures I become aware of a section I wasn't particularly interested in the time before.

Is the AOU number correct? It is easy to transpose several numbers when inking or typing schedules after midnight in late January. The AOU numbers you use can be entered on a small Audubon Daily Field Card for quick reference.

If you feel you don't have time to check each age-sex entry, at least "horse sense" what you've written down. If you see a female Chickadee listed in November, you had better review your records.

Don't forget to include the road map, which you can obtain from any service station, to show your exact banding location. Also don't forget to show your name in the Bander box as listed in the memorandum received by all banders this August.

When you summarize your new bandings and returns at the end of this year, please send a copy to Betty Knorr, 58 Steamboat Landing Road, South Amboy, New Jersey, for her column in EBBA News.

To spread the work load, the Bird Banding Laboratory has no objection to each of us submitting completed schedules periodically during the year. Just don't send them in one at a time. Why not make a New Year's resolution to do this so that you don't have to burn so much midnight oil at the end of the year.

Let's give the Bird Banding Laboratory the best Christmas present they've ever had. All of our schedules checked and submitted prior to January 31. My best wishes to all EBBA members for a very Merry Christmas and many significant banding records and projects during 1965.

John R. Given, R. F. D. 1, Croton Avenue, Peekskill, New York

FRONT COVER The photograph of the Least Bittern, which appears on the front cover, was made by Robert P. Yunick (and wins this issue's Illustration Award.) Dr. Yunick writes: "The picture was shot in the rain using a Kodak Startech camera and Verichrome 127 film. The bird was netted along a cattail bar and was released bearing band number 544-16926 at Watervliet Reservoir about 10 miles from Schenectady, N.Y. 8/22/64."