



Ever since that day several months ago when I was somewhat stunned by a letter from Mabel Gillespie, as nominating committee chairman, asking me to be the presidential nominee for EBBA, my outlook toward EBBA, needless to say, changed. I have asked myself what EBBA should be doing on the basis that the answers would then determine what I should be doing.

Let me, then, relate to you what I feel is a most challenging and worthwhile undertaking for EBBA. That is the establishment of a banding research station. The idea is not new; it is suggested in EBBA's by-laws as part of the conservation committees duties, as "including the investigation of netting locations on the east coast, and attempting to interest conservation groups in acquiring these areas". It is in idea pregnant with potential, and challenging to the imagination. It is not an easy task.

There is no question in my mind that EBBA has the human resources to man such a station, provided it is located centrally, such as along coastal N.J., Penna., or New York. The banding data that could be gathered at a year-round station by, let's say, one-third of EBBA's members spending just a fraction of their annual banding time at such a station is great indeed. Such a station could be a banding landmark in North America.

Based on the tremendous opportunity such a station could provide, I believe it is worth pursuing. Surely the decision to proceed with a plan for such a station will not be an easy one, and will likely be controversial. The questions of funds, location, buying vs. leasing, etc., are important and demand satisfactory answers.

Therefore, I have asked Dr. Kenneth Prescott to chair EBBA's conservation committee with the purpose of investigating avenues leading to the establishment of a banding research station. This committee's duty will be twofold: (1) establish the facts of what might be involved, and (2) report to Council with a recommendation on the feasibility of pursuing a plan of acquisition.

Since no committee is an island unto itself, the conservation committee would welcome, I am sure, your comments, suggestions and criticisms of such an undertaking. Feel free to drop Ken or myself a note and make your feelings known. It's your association. When he is not banding, Ken directs the N.J. State Museum, Cultural Center, Trenton, N.J. 08625.

The list of committee appointments scheduled for this issue lacks a few names of people from whom letter replies are expected. It will appear as soon as all replies are received.

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