



As year-end approaches, so do its chores. As banders, the one big chore that faces us is the completing of our banding schedules. Many of us regard this task as one of the least attractive aspects of banding - sort of as a necessary evil. It is time consuming, sometimes tedious and generally not regarded as rewarding. These things it may well be. However, these are

not reasons to do anything less than a good, acceptable job, for despite what our personal feelings are toward the matter, it is a critical point in our banding effort.

Hustling our incomplete, or incorrectly completed, schedules into the mail may relieve us of the mental agony usually associated with such a carelessly done job, but this means that someone else's headache is just beginning. The clerks who must process these schedules are going to feel the brunt of this carelessness. Anyone who is creating this kind of extra and inaccurate work is defeating himself and the efforts of other banders as well. It costs money to correct errors, and that money could be better spent furthering some of the positive aspects of banding.

Therefore, take the time to review procedures, refresh your mind with the recent changes, and pitch in early to avoid a last-minute, desperate rush. If taken little by little, the job is quite manageable; taken in one big dose, it is difficult to swallow.

Soon you will receive, if you have not already, a dues notice for 1969 EBBA dues. While most members will return these promptly, the remainder will delay. Some will require second and third notices. Hounding people for dues makes extra work for the treasurer. I am sure she will appreciate prompt submission of dues, so please do her and EBBA a favor, by paying your dues promptly.

1968 has been a very busy year for me, richly endowed with many memorable banding experiences. I hope that all of you have shared equally in a bountiful 1968. The southward-bound Evening Grosbeaks already have me looking excitedly to 1969. At this time I should like to offer to you my best wishes for the coming holiday season and also the best of banding success in 1969.

Dr. Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron St., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

COVER PICTURE The drawing of our national bird, by Murray Olyphant Jr., was submitted by Mrs. Olyphant who writes, "I might be slightly prejudiced, but I think it's good, and conveys a distinct mood - a lonely, proud, magnificent bird". We couldn't have expressed it better!