What kind of a record keeper are you? When one stops to think about it, the answer to this question is probably the same as that to the question, "What kind, or how good a bander am I?" In essence, worthwhile banding involves skillful record keeping, and beyond that intelligent interpretation of the records so gathered.

With the advent of the fall banding season, it is a good time to examine one's banding practices, and to institute improvements in one's techniques. It is frequently said that field or laboratory work seldom suffer from a superabundance of notes. So it is with banding. Accurate record keeping is an important step toward the ultimate fulfillment of the purpose of banding.

At this point many people back off fearing that accurate and detailed record keeping is difficult. It is not. It is, however, a technique which requires some cultivation and development. Record keeping, in turn, if pursued diligently, will develop one's acuity as an observer.

To begin, one must ask the question, "What should I record?" The answer is straightforward. Record the obvious, the apparent, the simple. Don't look for profound phenomena, hidden secrets or things that do not exist. Start with the basics - how many nets (traps) did I use, what kind (length, mesh size, etc.) were they, how long were they in use? Where were they placed, how did wind and weather affect their efficiency? Were birds on the move, and if so, how many of what in which direction? What differences in plumage, molt, soft part characters or other features of the birds were noted, and so forth.

Detailed record keeping helps one to be more systematic, and that is what this game is all about. As autumn leaves begin to fall, turn over a new leaf - a leaf in your banding notebook, and start being a more critical observer and recorder of the phenomena associated with the privilege of a bird in the hand.

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

**EBBA'S NEW TREASURER** ...is our past president, Mary Rebecca Cregar, who was appointed by Council to fill the term left vacant by Elise Dickerson. We wish her the best of luck.