



Occasionally one hears the following question asked in a lamentable tone: "What can I do with my banding data?" Or, "How may my banding data be of more value?" Without going into the statistical maze of considering how one could work up one's own raw data, let me dwell a moment on the point of how one's raw data may assume other value.

Quite frequently, the data accumulated by an individual bander are either insufficient in quantity, due to inadequate time to pursue one's avocation, or the bander himself is inadequately trained to realize the full statistical value of limited data. Many of us have bits and pieces of information which when viewed singly appear to have little value. Thus the predicament of what to do.

Consider the analogy of these data to puzzle pieces. A lone puzzle piece has little intrinsic value. However, when put into proper context it assumes value as a contributor to the whole, or to the completeness or accuracy of the whole. So it is with fragmentary banding data - these data do have value when properly used.

However, consider the plight of the individual seeking such data. From time to time requests appear in our publication and those of other banding groups for certain specific data. More times than not the one requesting the data ends up disappointed and frustrated. Consider Dr. Nisbet's article in the last issue of EBBA News on "Returns of Transients: Results of an Inquiry". Regardless of the meager return of information Dr. Nisbet received, consider how meaningful these fragmentary data become when put into context...and consider how much more meaningful Dr. Nisbet's results could have been had he received a more favorable response.

As another example of the use of fragmentary data, consider the request made by Aaron Bagg for data on the Black-capped Chickadee invasion during the winter of 1968-69, and his meaningful analysis of the flight in the February 1969 issue of Audubon Field Notes. Consider further the very concept of AFN and other more local field note assemblages. They all demonstrate the value of fragmentary data.

Thus the predicament of how to get some use out of one's data is no predicament, because one can at least make these data available to others when requested to do so. Surely it takes some time and initiative to answer these requests, and there are numerous excuses for not doing so - I know...I failed to send any data to Dr. Nisbet - a situation I hope to correct shortly.

Therefore, why not resolve for the New Year to be a contributor. Sit down and thumb through last year's banding publications looking for requests

for information and take the time to acknowledge these wherever possible. Dr. Nisbet is still looking for data, Ken Prescott has made a request for Scarlet Tanager data, Fred Schaeffer has made a few requests for information, and so have others. (In this issue also. -Ed.)

Lastly, don't forget Bob Pyle - he even sends you a form to fill out for EBBA's Annual Banding Summary - what could be simpler?

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EBBA ANNUAL BANDING SUMMARY FOR 1969
By Robert L. Pyle

Enclosed with this issue of EBBA News is a Report form for reporting totals of birds banded in 1969, by species and by state. We earnestly ask that all banders holding active permits in the eastern region respond by sending in a completed form. An EBBA Summary will be prepared, similar to the 1968 Summary published in the July-August and September-October 1969 issues of EBBA News.

The most important factor in determining the significance and value of the Summary is the percentage of actual bandings that are represented in the Summary. Thus, it is vital that we hear from as many permit-holders as possible...banders with large totals, banders with small totals, and banders with no bandings at all in '69. Each and every report, no matter how small the totals, adds measurably to the statistical significance of the Summary. The larger the percentage of permit-holders responding, the more assurance we have that the totals and patterns revealed are indeed meaningful. Banders can help increase the value of the Summary by sending in their reports, by encouraging friends and acquaintances to respond, and by bringing this to the attention of non-members of EBBA who may not have heard of it. (Extra report forms are available from the Editor.)

This is definitely not a numbers contest emphasizing competition for high individual totals. Instead, it is intended as an overview of the