



EDITOR'S
NOTES

Many readers have indicated that they would like to see a section of the News devoted to reader's comments. Up to now "News in Brief" has taken care of this, but apparently, in order to solicit your participation it is necessary to change the name to "Letters to the Editor".

Of course, some initial guidelines are needed. Comments for publication in this column have to be brief and to the point. They will be printed at the discretion of the editor but we will make every effort to present pros and cons fairly.

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On page 85 of this issue, you will find what is the beginning of a long-term engagement. One sequential chapter of this work will appear in every issue until sometime in 1973. The data which the authors have made available to us is excellent banding data and I have every hope that it will be of great value to our readers. Not only is the data valid in itself but the method in which it is presented may well form a basis for others to use in the presentation of their banding data. Subsequent chapters will deal with the various bird families in A.O.U. order and there are a great many tables showing important return data. When considering these data, please remember that this research was in effect only a by-product of a much larger arbovirus research program and that the authors are primarily not ornithologists. The data was offered to us because the authors are EBBA members.

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Various letters to the editor still indicate that some of you do not understand my editorial policy. First, our president, Emil Herzer, made it clear to me that "The responsibility for EBBA News is yours. I shall follow each issue with interest, but I will not concern myself with details unless they show that they need my attention." (Letter of June 22, 1970). As such, I took it upon myself to set my own policy. Some of you still seem to think that I am trying to make a Bird-Banding out of EBBA News. Allow me to explain my actions again:

A. We are happy to receive any manuscript whether submitted by amateur or professional ornithologists.

B. As editor is necessary for me to plan ahead. If I do not, I may suddenly find myself without material. When it appears that I am running short of material, there is one sure source from which it is always possible to receive papers. I am referring to the professional ornithologist. If you do not wish me to use such material, there is but one easy solution: Unearth the tons of data you are sitting on...and start writing!

C. Are you afraid the review board will turn you down? Don't be! The purpose of the board is to aid the editor to make objective judgements. If your data is valid, adequately supported with literary citations or field data and concisely presented, you have nothing to worry about!

Should you have any further questions on editorial policy, please submit them and we will reply to them in the "Letters to the editor" section. Thank You.

Editor.