

THE
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

During the fall migration I have been rather negligent of my duties as EBBA President due to the pressures of business and personal problems. Naturally the influx of correspondence has continued. Now I am organizing and replying to many letters I have received. One point has been quite violently driven home! Everybody knows about it, but right now it is very much on my mind. In common with the rest of the world, EBBA has a communications problem.

With our large membership, with our large council, with our large geographic area, how can we have an effective interchange of ideas? How can the President interact with his Councillors hundreds of miles away? Letters are slow and time-consuming. Phone calls are miserably expensive. Even conference calls do not permit really effective group discussions.

One general meeting per year is stimulating. It is also short. During the period of a few hours the Council must transact an entire year's business.

More frequent Council meetings would bridge much of this gap. As long as the expense of gathering remains a personal one, this avenue to communicating is impractical. It just plain costs too much!

Right now, EBBA NEWS is our best spreader of the word. Last year EBBA was in the sad position of having to break in both a new President and a new Editor. Our Editor, in particular, was in a sensitive position. He still is, for that matter. Change of any kind is difficult to adjust to. Let's try to shrink our communications gap in every way we can. You can be most effective in this by using EBBA NEWS to tell other EBBA members what you are doing and why, or even what ought to be done.

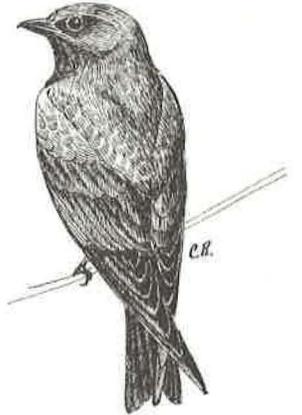
Communicate by contributing.

Emil J. Berger, Jr.
President



A Bird Bander's Diary

by Ralph K. Bell



This is to be a continuation (from the last issue of EBBA NEWS) about the "NOTES ON THE PURPLE MARTIN AND BIRD HOUSES FOR ITS SUMMER HOME" by J. Warren Jacobs. But first, I would like to comment about the man himself.

"Mister Jacobs" as he was both respectfully and affectionately addressed by all who knew him, was a self-educated naturalist in the Thoreau tradition, specializing in the study of bird life - not only in Waynesburg, Pa., but in the middle Atlantic States as well.

Like many ornithologists of his time, he started out quite young collecting bird eggs and nests. His first egg collections were placed in old cigar boxes and eventually grew to be one of the largest and most complete in the United States. It numbered more than 4,500 eggs that came from every state and territory in the United States as well as areas of Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, Iceland and Greenland.

Some of the eggs were obtained by trading with other egg collectors. Each collector "swapped" eggs that were readily available in their respective areas. This way each collector could build up his collection without the time and expense involved in traveling to various areas of the world and doing the collecting himself.

The eggs of the Red-tailed Hawk were easily obtained by Mr. Jacobs and were in good demand. In fact, this hawk was considered "abundant" here in Greene County, Pa., at the turn of the century. Mr. Jacobs was a good tree climber and getting these eggs was no problem to him. But one of his sons told me that his father once came face to face with