

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

I suppose one should write a message like a scholarly tome--one sermon, one philosophical thought, and with beautifully turned phrases. But today as I write, confronting the blank sheet, I seem to have a number of unconnected random thoughts lodged in my head. May I share a couple with you?

A live bird in the hand is a precious opportunity given to few. We should make that instant we interrupt its life flow as valuable to us, and ultimately to bird as we can. The bird in hand can tell us much if at first we listen, listen by getting every piece of information we can. Eye color, length of various feathers, weights, measurements galore, that instant in hand may be the only time to learn so much. We get few recoveries, yet in many cases lots of repeats and returns.

For that reason I'd rather take full advantage of the moment of capture and look forward to what I may learn next time we meet.

Speaking of meeting, now in terms of people to people, quite often we don't see our fellow banders as frequently as we'd like. I know I get stuck out in the woods banding away (sometimes in midsummer almost hoping the next net will be empty) and don't have a chance to receive or send any messages to another bander. Is that why EBBA meetings are such talk fests? Anyway, I hope that this seasonal communication isolation can be broken by more talking among us for one thing via *EBBA News*. The formal articles, the more informal ones, and all the other outlets Editor Schaeffer has provided should be some of our communication. Please write your material up, please share your ideas with the rest of us and send it to Fred.

And another thing, I hope you'll talk to me, and I with you. Give me a call if you feel like it, or jot down a note when you've time. I've already heard from several of you about the GJJ and would like to hear more.

It's not too early to think about coming to next year's Annual Meeting at Island Beach, New Jersey in April, a fine chance for direct message exchanging.

Dr. Jeff Swinebroad, President  
10423 Kartwright Court, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760