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*Eastern*

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**Eastern Bird Banding Association**

Founded 1923

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### **President's Message**

We have an important responsibility as banders, and I include "all" banders, to disseminate our data in one form or another. If our only reason for banding is to please ourselves then maybe we should find some other activity for that purpose, an activity that does not involve a responsibility to so many other people and organizations i.e. the banding office, fellow banders, EBBA, IBBA, WBBA, NABB, yourself, etc.. To paraphrase an old idea, as you interact with others and present information, you will gain even more pleasure from banding. Publishing your data is one of the most important methods of participating but it is not the only way to participate more fully in banding. You can give educational talks at nature centers, schools, clubs etc. and/or do photography and present it to groups and to banders and/or actively participate in the running of our organizations.

Still the most important goal is the dissemination of the data that you have collected, we all need it. This data that you have so pains takingly gathered, often after long hard drives early in the a.m. and in cold weather, serves no useful purpose stored in your garage, basement or attic. I have just had my first major scientific publication accepted in a top international journal as the first author so I know that it is not easy to sit down and put together a paper.

Often the major obstacle is that we think that we, as a committee of one, have to do it "all" by ourselves. On my paper there are five authors but as I mentioned, I am "first" author. With all the others contributing in one form or another, I assure you, first author is the most important spot. What I am getting at is if you have done the investigational work and have great difficulty putting a paper together, get some help and do not feel it is lost putting someone else's name on "your" paper. You will still be first author.

The consequences of leaving your hard work stored in boxes and not asking for help are that without the help you will never author anything and all of us will lose. Remember, on any quotes of your paper you will be mentioned first and if there are three or more authors it will be your name plus those persons called "et al." Find someone with experience to help you or contact your editor and an effort will be made to obtain help for you. You might even discover someone working on an identical project or on another aspect of your project and you could do one or two joint papers. On a paper with only two authors both are always quoted and if you publish two papers each could be first author of one. Get to work.

Walter P. Protzman