



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded

President's Message

In my second term as President of EBBA I am a little wiser and less intimidated so I feel justified in indicating that there is more to being an EBBA member than you might think. We are all banding birds for purposes dedicated to ensuring their productivity, survival and well being. There are, however, other activities that we must engage in to accomplish that purpose.

We are all aging and must accept our own mortality but should not dismiss the fact that we can ensure the work we started is continued. That means we must **take on apprentice banders**, do some training, and foster their growth so they can continue after we have passed on or can not do it anymore. Those apprentices should be attending our meetings.

Whenever offered assistance by someone interested in the banding we should **treat people with respect and consideration** because they may become one of those apprentices or otherwise help. Sue and I have had youngsters attend the station who have grown to achieve their doctorates in ornithology because we cared enough to allow them to help and trained them in the proper care and handling of the birds.

Educating the public about the importance of birds in our environment requires the patience of Job and the talents of a politician because we must allow visitors into our banding stations (note I did not say blinds) and explain our purposes and intent so they understand the need for banding and develop a

respect for the rights of birds while limiting their activities at the station to those that do not harm the birds or interrupt operations.

Communicating and **sharing our data** is another way we can achieve more. Banders of my personal acquaintance, for the most part, are more than willing to provide their data to anyone that requests them, provided they are recognized as a contributor of the data in any report or paper based on those data.

I do recognize that many of us are well past the age where we are capable of this and it is important to recognize that as well. Regardless, a step in the right direction is to **let the EBBA's officers know your status** and better contact information. We must be ready to respond quickly to issues that arise.

In today's environment something can require our joint action within hours, let alone days, so those avenues of rapid communication are essential. At the minimum, providing a telephone number and e-mail address makes it faster, easier and less expensive for EBBA to give you information or call upon you for assistance with issues important to EBBA members. **Please drop me a line or e-mail** to show you are ready for action.

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