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EBBA'S PRESIDENT SAYS: Not long ago a letter arrived on EBBA'S President's desk. It was from an old time EBBA member. It was short and to the point. It asked the question: "Do banding ethics exist?"

Old Timer wasn't specific, but from the grapevine your President learned that he was peeved on two counts. First, Old Timer mailed in a lot of recovery slips that he hasn't heard from, from one year to the next. Second, Old Timer played host to some unannounced banders a few months back who set some of the old fellow's "turned off" traps. When he got back two days later, Old Timer had dead birds in his traps. One was a four year cardinal!

Old Timer's first trouble was explained in detail to your President by Allen Duvall at dinner one evening. The Banding Office boss expressed himself quite positively about banders who refuse to send their schedules in. One well known bander who bands a large number of birds every year, is three years behind with banding homework. That particular bander is going to learn the hard way one of these days. Probably Old Timer is waiting to hear from some of those birds.

Old Timer's second trouble is another problem EBBA's president knows about first hand. He too has found unannounced banders wandering around his traps on days when the Washington Crossing Park Bird Banding Station is closed. He too has found traps set. Fortunately he has had no deaths among his feathered family, but he hasn't been too good-tempered about greeting some of those unannounced banding pals.

What follows then is a reply to Old Timer. It is in no sense a complete or even an approved code of banding ethics. It is merely a list of unwritten but traditional things that banders have been doing for years to make banding the pleasurable and productive hobby it is, and to

keep banding on a high scientific level. Perhaps it will never be necessary to pass on an approved code of banding ethics in a formal meeting, or to appoint a Committee on Banding Ethics. But somewhere in banding literature a list of ethical principles should be published for the sake of the record of banding in our time.

AN ETHICAL BANDER WILL:

1. Keep careful and accurate records, recording only proven scientific facts.
2. Reply to letters from other banders asking for pertinent banding information.
3. Send in banding schedules regularly.
4. Reply to Fish and Wildlife Service query cards promptly.
5. Help a new bander get started by helping him (or her) to construct traps, and by instructing him (or her) in record-keeping.
6. Obey the rules of courtesy when visiting another bander's trapping station.
7. Do his bit to train new banders, and to encourage individuals who show promise as possible banders.
8. Do his best to prevent banding permits from falling into unauthorized hands. (Artists, photographers, ceramic pottery designers, pet store operators, unscrupulous hunters, and trout-fly manufacturers all would like to have banding permits for their own purposes.)
9. Treat birds humanely, and operate no more equipment than he can care for properly.
10. Cooperate with other banders in worthwhile banding projects.
11. Prevent his traps and nets from falling into the hands of children, or of other unauthorized persons.
12. Attend important banding and ornithological meetings when possible.
13. Contribute important banding data to banding publications.
14. Write thank you letters to banders and others who recover his bands.
15. Do his bit for conservation and banding by talking to Boy Scouts, and other worthy groups.
16. Band only birds positively known to him, and to liberate, without banding, birds which he cannot identify.
17. Assist sick, aged, or other banders who ask for help at any time.

(N.B. This is all your President can think of -- have any other EBBA members any other ethical principles to add to this list?)