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EBBA NEWS is published six times a year by the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Applications for membership should be forwarded to the treasurer. The dues: Active Members \$2 per year; Sustaining Members \$5.

EBBA'S PRESIDENT SAYS: Several banders have mentioned that they have had so few song birds at their stations this past fall and winter that it wasn't worthwhile to operate their traps and nets. Such has been the situation at my station.

Let's consider this with respect to two species that most banders take in large numbers, the Slate-colored Junco and the White-throated Sparrow.

During migration and in the winter both normally occur in large numbers in a wide variety of habitats in both rural and urban areas along the coastal plain, on the piedmont, and in the mountains. Individuals of both species tend to return to the same locality each winter. Some juncos apparently follow the same routes each fall and spring, revisiting the same stations along the way, whereas White-throats do not.

In winter and during migration both species are able to accommodate themselves to various habitats and to adjust to the vast changes wrought by the sprawling suburban developments. Their northern breeding grounds are relatively undisturbed as yet. Loss of habitat either in the vicinity of a particular station or over their range as a whole does not appear to be a major consideration.

When the winter is open and natural foods are abundant some species do not come readily to feeding and banding stations. We have had no snow in my area but such has not been the case to the east, south, west and north of us. It has been colder more consistently than normal. But the Junco is aptly known also as the "snowbird" and White-throats do not shun snow and cold.

Perhaps more birds remained in the north than usual or a greater portion continued farther south than normal. In any event, if these species still exist in the same numbers as just ten years ago and if some areas are experiencing a lack of these two species; it would seem reasonable to assume that there are other areas where these species are abnormally abundant. We would like to hear from banders who may be in such areas.

The foregoing is mostly speculation based on impressions. Unfortunately we do not have much factual and usable data. We can assume that we have at least as many active banding stations as ten years ago. While most can provide figures on the numbers banded, few are able to furnish the trap-hours and net-hours of operation for the corresponding periods. Fluctuations in bandings may merely reflect fluctuations in effort.

In 1948 mist nets were introduced and now are in general use. During the same period more efficient traps such as the all-purpose have replaced the small and older types at many stations. Increasing efficiency may be obscuring a general decrease in the numbers of birds. Whereas banders may have taken 50% of the juncos which visited their station, the take may now be 75%.

Let's have your views and opinions at our coming Annual Meeting!

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## 10-YEAR INDEX OF EBBA NEWS 1949-59

The 10-year Index of Ebba News, painstakingly prepared by Mary Schmid (Mrs. John C. Schmid, 24 Bowman Drive, Greenwich, Conn.) is now completed. It will be printed and sent out to all members in good standing at the same time as the May-June issue. There will be no extra charge for the Index (Mary Schmid has contributed her work to EBBA) but members who may wish to contribute towards the cost of printing the Index are invited to send a dollar to EBBA's treasurer.

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## SQUEEZ-KLIPS

Squeeze-Klips are very handy to use in making or repairing traps - and for many other things. The Squeeze-Klip Kit (price \$2.32) includes 500 assorted size galvanized Klips and special pliers for attaching them. Special cutters for disengaging Klips are \$2.50. Extra "OO" size Klips 40¢ per 100. Order from Ebba's Treasurer: Mrs. Stanley S. Dickerson, 222 De Voe Ave. Spotswood, N.J.

