

## RECOVERY REPORTS - UNTOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS

EBBA members will recall that during the Annual Meeting, Allen J. Duvall, head of the Bird Banding Office, described various procedures which are going to be introduced in the Banding Office, among which is a new method of reporting recoveries. Both the bander and the finder of the bird will receive an IBM-type card, as we understand it; the finder will get a card which gives the name and address of the bander, and pertinent data on the banding of the bird - in English. The bander, however, is to receive a card largely in IBM-ese, with information which he can decode to give the date of recovery, pertinent banding data, and the location of recovery, at least by geographical coordinates.

The "flimsies" which banders for years have looked forward to receiving, are to be no more.

We understand that no formal decision has yet been reached by the Banding Office regarding procedures for reporting recoveries to banders, but that such a decision is likely to be made this fall.

The Banding Office surely realizes that banders are much interested in receiving the names and addresses of those who recover their birds, and the other information given on those "flimsies"; at the Annual Meeting and since, it has been indicated that these names and addresses will be kept on file for a year and that it may be possible to make this information available to banders on a routine basis. It seems that if this is to be the case, the Banding Office is letting itself in for a lot of extra work.

We have already heard from a few banders on this subject - all would be much distressed if full recovery information is no longer forthcoming. In her letter reporting the sandpiper recovery which appears elsewhere in this issue, Mrs. Betty Knorr writes, "such an interesting recovery makes me cringe at the thought of future recoveries being reported by impersonal IBM machines".

Doubtless, the many banders who make a profitable practice of writing to people who recover their birds, and often getting additional information by doing so, will do some cringing too!

Perhaps the Banding Office needs more evidence of the scientific value gained in this way, and members who can provide it - examples of information received from those who recovered their birds, and anything else along these lines - are strongly urged to send them to your Editors for possible publication, and for forwarding to the Banding Office.

-The Editors

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