

ORNITHOLOGISTS AND BACKYARD BANDERS

By Frank P. Frazier

Most of my neighbors know a good deal about my banding activities, since my banding station has been in almost constant operation in Upper Montclair for a dozen years or so. Certainly all the boys of the neighborhood knew all about my nets and traps and banded birds, and often they would bring friends who had never heard of a banding station over to watch its operation.

One such new boy, watching me take a Junco from a trap and band it, said to me, "You must be an ornithologist." "Oh, no," I answered him. "I'm just a back yard bander."

"Well, you spend a lot of time finding out about birds and what they do," he said authoritatively, "you must be an ornithologist."

And, of course, my young friend was right in his definition. It has occurred to me, as I notice the comments of EBBA members at our meetings and through the mail, that all too many of us exhibit our inferiority complexes (when we think of professional ornithologists, or when we hear a fellow bander mention the thousands of birds he banded last month!) by saying, "Oh, I'm only a back yard bander."

The plain fact is that most EBBA members are back yard banders -- men and women who band birds in their spare time and who try to add a small bit to man's knowledge of birds and their behavior.

The EBBA Annual Meeting is a wonderful place for back yard banders to exchange information and to gain a little better insight into their chosen venture. In particular, the workshop planned for Saturday afternoon, April 28, 1962, is something that no back yard bander ought to miss. It will have every sort of information on many different banding problems -- and the tyro who just received his (or her) license last month can benefit from the session just as much as the veteran of many banding years.

So read over the details of the Workshop plan in the previous issue of Ebba News -- and then send in your preference with comments (and notes on your favorite trap or tool) so sessions can be geared to your own special interests and needs. Let David Bridge (8A Ridge Rd., Greenbelt, Maryland) know what you most want.

And above all, come to the annual meeting and exchange ideas with your fellow banders.
