

- A = Adult: determined to be about one year old, or older.
- S = Subadult: determined to be more than one year old, but less than two years old, or not yet in full adult plumage.
- E = Elder: determined to be about two years old, or older, and in full adult plumage.

(It is appealing to consider using these definitions for all species, thus avoiding entirely the artificial January 1 cutoff date).

### SEX

Add the category FI: Female or immature, but not adult male. With this sex designation, use U for age.

These proposed modifications elaborate on the present classification given in the Manual, but with as little change as possible so as to cause minimal disturbance to the present practices of most banders, and to preserve as far as possible the real meanings of age and sex designations already in the files.

I would be interested to hear your thoughts and comments on the proposed modifications and on the subject in general. I am sending copies of this letter to the various regional banding associations in hopes of stimulating discussion and eliciting other suggestions on this topic.

Yours truly,

Robert L. Pyle, 3012 44th St., N.W., Washington 16, D.C.

(The Editor will be happy to receive and print thoughts and comments of EBBA News readers on these proposals.)



SHOULD BANDERS  
COLLECT BIRDS?  
Nabel Gillespie  
313 Sharp Ave.  
Glenolden, Pa.

I think it was Leroy Wilcox who, during the showing of slides Friday evening (at the Annual Meeting), projected a picture of a controversial sparrow, probably a hybrid. He kept asking, "Do you think I should have collected it?" This reminded me of an experience years ago. My husband was off with friends on a Sunday and I was confined with two measles cases. I had one trap operating and in the course of events caught a White-winged Junco. I drew pictures and wrote detailed descriptions, banded and released the bird. Next day I checked bird skins at the Academy of Natural Sciences. But do you think I could get this published? I should have collected the bird. Now I ask you, what right has an ordinary bander to collect anything? I would like to have some discussion on this point.