

## More about GOOD WILL AND UNDERSTANDING

By Arthur D. Inwood

All bird banders will agree with, and compliment Mrs. Mabel Warburton on her interesting article in the May-June issue of EBBA News concerning the lack of knowledge, and sometimes understanding, on the part of non-banders.

I am a comparatively new weekend and after-work bander (July 1962) and at first had quite a time trying to dissuade strangers and passers-by from endeavouring to release birds from my nets...usually from the wrong side...despite the fact that my Poster (Form #3-1155) was displayed conspicuously not more than three feet from their noses! Incidentally, my main mist-net parallels the street on which I live.

On each occasion that someone would trespass I'd do my best, and at some length, try to explain the whys and wherefores of bird-banding, etc., which bit of information was invariably appreciated and understood. However, it seemed that quite a few of these well-meaning people took umbrage at being asked not to interfere or tamper with the trapped birds; it seems their intelligence was being insulted! During my office hours, though, it struck me that the Poster (3-1155) did not carry enough information to satisfy the curiosity of other strangers so I hit upon an idea which has worked exceptionally well for me, and might do so for other banders.

Before the days of IBM Patuxent used to have a more personal touch in acknowledging returns and recoveries of birds on the now obsolete Form #3-624 (Nov. 1960)! On the reverse side of this form is the story and purpose of bird-banding in a nutshell, with a few statistics added as examples. It is this reverse side that I have Verifaxed (or Xeroxed) and display alongside my Posters. It is surprising how many people will now pause to read the finer print on this accompanying form thereby learning, though not necessarily understanding completely, what bird-banding is all about. Also, in now not having to object in person too often, sometimes quite vehemently, I may have fostered, or engendered, a little more good will between my fellow man and myself!

28 S. E. 5th Street, Fort Lauderdale 1, Florida 33301

