



An organization the size of EBBA has many hard working committees whose organization and problems are virtually unknown to most of its members. In this issue of EBBA News I would like to review the Memorial Award Committee.

EBBA has been able, through contributions in memory of deceased banders, to make a one-hundred dollar award to a college student needing funds for ornithological studies involving banding. This is a rather new and complicated assignment for a committee. Last year Al Schnitzer was chairman and wrote an outstanding five page report on the program carried out by his committee as well as suggestions for smoother operation of this committee in the future.

Previously there had been two applications a year. Al's committee designed a letter describing the award and distributed this to prospective applicants as well as ornithological publications, instructors, natural history museums and wild life refuge managers. As a result we had nine applications last year. Not only that but an anonymous donor contributed \$100 for a second award.

The excellence of the projects submitted made it difficult to select a winner. Al has recommended that EBBA establish certain criteria for judging the applicants. This is a difficult task as he does not want to diminish the latitude of the applications but some general statements on the following would be helpful to both applicants and judges. For example the weight given to: results already accomplished as opposed to encouragement of work merely projected; applicability of the project to problems in other fields such as health, psychology, and physics; volume of details submitted, whether overly concise or cluttered with undigested detail (last year the committee pored over 59 pages of material); the financial need of the applicant, etc. Generalities on these should be included in the publicity so as to avoid confusion.

EBBA is indeed fortunate to have an able, interested member like Al who is willing to again be chairman and spend a great deal of time organizing this committee so that future members will become a part of a going concern with considerably lightened load.

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