



## The President's Message

The afterglow of an EBBA meeting is usually a comforting radiance. For many members, going to an EBBA meeting involves traveling considerable distances. Thus one spends one's share of hours on the road returning home. During this time, one has ample opportunity to relive in reverie the events of the meeting.

As I journeyed north from Newark, I could not help but be impressed at how education was such a strong underlying theme of the meeting. Whether by design, or by coincidence, the message was unmistakably apparent. We heard about Manomet as a research and educational banding station. Many people shared the excitement and challenge of this undertaking. EBBA itself voted to direct its Memorial Grant Award for 1969-70 to a scholarship at Manomet.

We heard further about banding as an approach to conservation education. The meeting workshops contributed to the educational theme. Our banquet speaker, Charles Mohr, spoke interestingly of nature education, and exposure to the out of doors for children. (Some of us might even regard John Schmid's performance on Saturday evening as educational.)

This educational emphasis points out an opportunity for all of us. Each in his own way we have the tools at our disposal, namely living creatures, to captivate an audience and make a lasting impression. Whether it be to a scout troop, a garden club, a classroom, or whomever, we have the means to instill an awareness, teach a lesson and mold the future. Use this opportunity wisely.

Also, in thinking back on the meeting it is a pleasure to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of those who worked behind the scenes to plan and carry out the meeting. The brunt of this work fell on the shoulders of Emil Berger and Jack Linehan, whom I thank for their many hours of work in arranging the meeting. My thanks go also to those members of the Delmarva Ornithological Society who helped with arrangements, field trips and other duties.

In addition, those of us who visited Damsite, I am sure, thank Dorothy and Ed Mendinhall for the opportunity to see what has to be regarded as an ideal banding situation. We marvelled at the habitat - its variety and extensiveness - and could not help but envy the Mendinhalls a little for being so fortunate to have Damsite.

The banquet on Saturday was one of the more lively ones I have attended anywhere recently. On behalf of all of EBBA, I thank John Schmid for his extemporaneous performance as auctioneer which, while being so very entertaining, also helped to increase the coffers of our Memorial Grant Fund. I am sure that John provided a measuring stick by which many future banquets will be measured. To our speaker, a man of considerable renown in the field of conservation, go our thanks for an interesting talk and slide program

that illustrated what can be done by a devoted group of people to elevate this nation's awareness of its environment.

To outgoing council member Dorothy Bordner, who has served in the offices of secretary and councillor during the past eight years, go our thanks and appreciation for her giving of her time and energy to EBBA.

On behalf of the other officers and councillors, thank you for your support in election and re-election to our positions.

Dr. Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron St., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

### THE EBBA ANNUAL MEETING, 1969

By Dorothy Bordner

The 1969 annual meeting was held at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. Our host organization, the Delmarva Ornithological Society, had things very well organized. (The only hitch in the weekend was the usual one of a restaurant not expecting so many "crazy" people to get up at 6:00 am. to watch birds!) Friday registration and dinner were held in the Student Center, as was the Council meeting both before and after dinner. This was followed by a reception featuring banding equipment exhibits, an enjoyable short film of a previous EBBA meeting made by Ralph Bell, and an excellent slide program.

The Saturday morning session opened at the Student Center with a welcome by Dr. Donald Crossan, Assistant Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Delaware. After a response by EBBA President Robert Yunick, the annual business meeting was held, the minutes of which appear elsewhere in this issue.

The papers session began with Dr. Jeff Swinebroad who spoke on "Local Extinction of Red-eyed Vireos". The study area considered is the Hutcheson Memorial Forest which many members visited during the EBBA meeting at Rutgers University. It is small, but relatively undisturbed since the 1600's. Over the last ten years both singing male counts and netting have been done. From 1958 to 1962 the Red-eyed Vireo numbers remained relatively constant at 33 territories with about 60 individuals. In 1968 there were no singing males and none caught in nets. Other species showing a similar decline were the Black & White Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Singing male counts for the Wood Thrush and Ovenbird remained about constant, but the numbers netted declined drastically. It was hypothesized that for these species all territories were occupied in 1958 and there was a surplus of birds: now the surplus has been slowly declining while the number of occupied territories has been constant. Two questions were then raised: what has caused it - Cowbirds, pesticides, presence of the study group or normal fluctuation? How widespread is it? It is not an isolated situation and further study will be made.