

THE PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

Environmental wisdom has been claimed by more and more people these days. Having environmental wisdom is said to be a mark of erudition. I'm sure you've noticed this in various advertisements. To have a marine ecologist espouse a certain brand of scotch suggests that if you want to be a la mode or to have environmental wisdom you should drink that brand of scotch. Whether or not drinking scotch develops wisdom (and I expect an argument about that), Madison Avenue has approved environmental wisdom.

I'm not sure that many who claim such wisdom can prove their claim. Too often we are quick to live off the fad of the land, and cover ignorance with a layer of verbosity. I wonder how many of the recently concerned have felt (and felt is the right word), have felt the odors of dawn mist swirling from a marsh. Now I won't claim that soaking in marsh odors are the only way to get smart, but it's one way to start. Perhaps your first getting smart was when a bander let you hold a small bird and feel the vibrant beating within. I hope we never lose that kind of wisdom. But wisdom comes in other ways. The aim of bird-banding is to increase biological knowledge. Yes, we learn directly about birds, yet birds are part of the biological system. What we learn about birds and their responses to their environment, increases in some finite way our wisdom of the rest of the system, increases our ecosystem understanding (to use one of the current slogans). Invariably in bird-banding we learn a little of ourselves. This gain of knowledge --perhaps it's no more than sentiment, not wisdom--has been defined by others. However, what we may learn is that we can become more sensitive to our environment--in some way more like the bird we band. Is increased sensitivity a first step to environmental wisdom?

Increased sensitivity, with awareness, now coupled with objective rationalization, with patient observation of birds, with critical reading, with careful recording, with discussions of ideas based on data (here, I'm afraid most of us tend to get a bit emotional, but objectivity can stand a little bending)-- ALL these give the bird-bander a good start in gaining environmental wisdom. I feel a little sorry for those others who have to get it some other way.

Dr. Jeff Swinebroad, President
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We received word from our President, that the following Committee Chairmen have been appointed to date:

AMFO	Mr. Edward Reed
Conservation	Mr. Earl Baysinger
Education	Mr. Seldon Spencer
Finance	Mr. George Lakata
Location	Mr. Ron French
By-Laws	Dr. Charles Blake
Membership	---
Memorial Grant	Dr. Will Merritt
Net	Dr. Richard Waechter and Bob Merritt
Program	Mr. Chris Rose
Publication	Dr. Robert Yunick

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ATTENTION AFR COORDINATORS:

This is to remind you that the following Regions were scheduled for publication in our May 1973 issue (see *EBBA News, Editor's Notes, August 1972, page 168*):

Region I: Massachusetts, Maine and Rhode Island.
Coordinator: Mr. Richard L. Ferren, Berkshire
Community College, Pittsfield, Mass.
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Region II: New York State (excl. Greater N.Y., Long Island
& Extreme Western N.Y.)
Coordinator: Dr. Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron
Street, Schenectady, N.Y. 12309.

Please have this material IN THE MAIL to the EDITOR, no later than 10 MARCH 1973. If you happen to be late (and we're sure you won't do it on purpose), the entire issue will have to be delayed as these reports are to lengthy to have them postponed to a later issue. Thank you for your cooperation.

Editor