

EBBA NEWS

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THE EASTERN BIRD BANDING
ASSOCIATION

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"Let Us Band Together"

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The new Editor sits down to prepare copy for his first issue of The News with a Ruby-throat swinging his "pendulum flight" just outside his window; thirty varieties of Iris all in bloom at once over which the Hummer is oscillating; and a Wood Thrush chanting away in the woods behind the house.—A grand day for a Good Deed! May our members enjoy such things as these—everywhere, always; may they never cease to remember how exceedingly lucky it is to be alive and to be blessed with awareness and love of Nature!

ABOUT COWBIRDS AND D. D. T.

Last summer I reported to several conservation agencies that in this region of southeastern N. Y. State the Cowbird population had suddenly dwindled to *almost nothing*. I didn't get any response, pro or con, to this observation. —This Spring it's the same thing around here. Suddenly several of us got the same notion all at once: DDT! —Was it DDT sprayed on cows that had decimated the Cowbirds? . . . Again *this year* almost no Cowbirds—but there did happen one curious thing: one afternoon in early April an adult male suddenly plummeted into our front porch, slid a few feet, and lay dying. Picking it up I found condition of both eyes remarkable. The bird was blind; his eyes shrunken back into sockets; yet no apparent phy-

sical injury to head sockets or eyes. Bird was *well nourished*; could not have been blinded long. Died next morning. Was this—is this condition due to consuming flies poisoned by DDT? Has anyone a contribution on this whole topic?

Speaking of Contributions to EBBANUS—the NUS is your news-letter, and if you of the membership do not begin to send in items for publication, the NUS will fold up . . . so far as this new editor is concerned! He is not going to—even if he possibly could—compile the NUS alone. He said so to the EBBA authorities when he accepted the job. This paragraph is both an appreciation of the honor paid me by the election (and I do mean honor!) and it is a warning that all of you keep your brains and hands active in the NUS' behalf or you'll have to get—a better editor!—So there

For instance:

June or July issue will (hopefully) be given over mostly to the topic of baits-for-banding. What are some of your tried-and-tested baits for attracting hard-to-trap birds? We all want to know of some unusual and/or particularly successful bait you've used. . . . Now sit down and write out a few words on a postal card while the subject is fresh in your mind! Address it to R. T. Fuller, Winterton, Sullivan Co., N. Y.

Another future issue will specialize on THE CAT PROBLEM — HOW I LICKED IT! The Editor finds the feline menace at his place very baffling. Not as regards his own pet (he loves

cats!) but, oh, the stray cats of neighbors! He has not yet licked THE PROBLEM—but, HAVE YOU? JUST HOW?

The Editor has also noted a marked decrease in the local Bluebird population. Has any member anything to say about this topic? He noted it in 1948 too. Not so marked a dwindling, however, as that of the Cowbird.

The last issue Ed. can find around the house of BIRD BANDING NOTES (issued, you know, by Fish & Wildlife Service—at odd moments, and irregularly), is that of June 1948. Will someone who knows inform him if there's a later one distributed to us. NUSED. is constrained to ask for this information because he finds the issue full of requests to banders to do this and that for the betterment of banding and its record-keeping. There are so many important requests and directions in that 1948 issue that all of us would do well to dig out our copy and read it carefully again!

—And, (certainly, this must be heresy, or something) the NUSED. has a hunch that BIRD BANDING NOTES (if issued quarterly) would be the ideal publication for all of us Regional Associations to contribute to. Contribute, I mean, our notes, queries, problems and records. In short, maybe NOTES, issued by the federal agency which has created us Banders, is the logical and ideal news sheet for all of us to combine on. Suggest you get out that 1948 copy and re-read it, for it's full of new directives.

Quote from BIRD BANDING NOTES of June 1948; Vol. 4, No. 1—

"This is the first issue of NOTES since