

seen it stated that these Finches are lished too often. Bi-monthly would be frequent enough. Many members never contributed anything

GOV'T. POST CARDS

I feel sure that a lot of our members never have realized the function of a gov't. postal card (1¢) in handily passing on notes, queries and ideas! A stack of postal cards on your desk seems to stimulate your correspondence; and a fellow grabs one and uses it in many an instance where he wouldn't get to writing a letter.

CANKER WORM CONTROL

Number 1, Volume 1, of THE OWL, "official publication of the Ridgewood (N.J.) Audubon Society," has just been received by this editor. Four full pages of birdlore and hobby chat about birding. —As well as not a few notes of scientific value from member observers in the region. (It's a good job of mimeographing too —if mimeo is its technical name — and must cost less per issue than a printed job.) It's slated to be a bi-monthly, and is referred to as "a news letter" —which is what we EBBAS call our monthly. . . . I must quote one item: "The June issue of the New Jersey Audubon Society's monthly-letter has a very excellent article by Mr. Northwood* who discusses the use of poisonous insecticides in the control of canker worms. Trees attacked by these worms are partially defoliated but live. When the spray is used, however, birds eat the poisoned worms and succumb. He suggests leaving out the DDT and letting the birds eat the canker worms."

(*EBBAED does not know who Northwood is.)

D. D. T. And Cowbirds

One of the reasons impelling EBBAED to speak of DDT (in connection with Cowbird population variations) is that he has a sickening feeling inside that DDT is going to be proved a terrible scourge to many kinds of birds. All our members ought to be on the alert for such variations in population in their localities. Of course, several other causes could be reasons for shortages and increases, and always have been so. But let's keep tabs as accurately as possible on our insect-eating species. —And also, it must be said, what might seem (on superficial observations and guess-work) to be a shortage or increase may be only that —guesswork. . . . Cowbird variations might prove to be a key-study on DDT's dangers.

From "The Owl" Ridgewood

Also it's important to quote again from THE OWL: "Several pairs of Purple Finches have been observed nesting at Valteau Cemetery, Ridgewood, N.J., again this year. . . Mrs. R. reports a family with young feeding in Ramsey

Bergen County will soon be considered a regular part of their breeding range." In the region wherein EBBAED lives (Sullivan Co., N.Y., southern edge) I feel sure no Purple Finches ever breed, though maybe some do in northern and eastern Sullivan. And our elevation here is higher than Ridgewood's and more sparsely settled. Editor believes he has

apparently changing, or at least, widening their New York State range. —Any comments from EBBAS? We'd like to print a paper on this topic by B. S. Bowdish, whom we quoted briefly in May NEWS —Come across, Bowdish!"

WHY NOT!

This Editor found it impossible to attend last April's Annual Meeting of EBBA. There were papers given there which we'd like to condense and publish in EBBANEWS. Ben Coffey's for instance, on banding Chimney Swifts. And Mr. Astle's remarks. And if anyone reading this note has written a paper (whether published or read somewhere, or not) which could appropriately be condensed in EBBANEWS, please will its author send it in here! —Why not!

Dry Spring!

It occurs to the Editor that the unprecedented (at least in N. Y. State) Spring drought may have had some unexpected or unusual effects upon bird-nesting, bird-rearing and populations. Has any member some contrib to send in on this topic? Not a drop of rain during June in southern New York and most of New Jersey. At Winterton, N. Y. we had one brief thunderstorm downpour that rescued the Editor's vegetable garden at the last moment. But its area was very small. Connecticut still suffers.

TREASURER WOOD REPORTS 320 MEMBERS

According to Treasurer Wood EBBA has 320 members; meaning paid-up and not in arrears on dues members. Will all our other "members" please pay-up!

INFORMATION WANTED ON EASTERN HOUSE WREN

Information Wanted: Does any member know from personal observation whether a female Eastern House Wren sings (somewhat like a male) at times during the breeding and nesting season? Send in a postal card. —Include on it also any observation or data on this bird which you think does not appear in the bird books.

NEXT ISSUE

Next issue will be called (and so labelled, we pray) the August Issue. —And be distributed before August 25 at the latest. —We pray.

MAHNKEN WRITES . . .

—And Mahnken writes that U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service issued a one - page memo to banders last April —"With many directions." Editor can't locate this one. It must be quite important because of those Directions. Will someone please loan Editor this memo so that it can be digested in EBBANUS next issue! —I do mean loan.

REPORT ON OUR FINANCIAL CONDITION, APRIL 21, 1949

The treasury has a balance of \$436.43, \$83.00 more than a year ago. Annual itemized financial report appears in the January issue of the EBBA NEWS.

The total number of members is 320, which is 104 more than a year ago. The number who joined since January 1st is 36.

Merrill Wood
EBBA Treas.