

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 Valcau 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