

E B B A N E W S

A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

From Mr. John V. Dennis, Route 1, Box 376, Leesburg, Virginia, comes a request for information in connection with a project which should be of interest to EBBA members. Contributions should be sent directly to Mr. Dennis. Quotations from his letter follow:

"What are the individual food preferences of those species attracted by artificially supplied bait? ...Do species come to favored baits wherever they are supplied, or are they attracted only in certain parts of their range or at certain seasons?"

"For sever years I have been running down the answers to just such questions as these. ...Through experiance in several sections of the country, I have gained personal knowledge as to local variations in feeding habits. Also, I have become acquainted with an ever increasing number of the birds which banders are able to attract.

"Having always found so much that was new and interesting at the feeding or banding station, I, for a long time, have been keeping notes in the expectation that some day I would be able to make my findings available to others. Some material has already seen light in Audubon Magazine and elsewhere, but my ambition is to place in book form the most important of my own observations and those of others.

"To obtain the vivid sort of personal accounts which contain a wide cross-section of knowledge and experience, I have written to banders and feeding-station operators over most of the United States and Canada....From the large number of valuable letters I have received, I already have adequate material on most of the species and topics I am covering. It is becoming more apparant to me that I have a great responsibility to present this material in a lively, readable, and informative manner.

"Each species will be taken up in check-list order, including only those birds known to come to feeding and banding stations for food, not water. (If this book is to prove of maximum value to banders, it would appear to the Editor that a section should be devoted to those species which are attracted only by water or even to non-food attract-

ants such as nesting material, decoys, etc. However, the Editor does not want to presume to tell Mr. Dennis what should be in his book, so unless further request is made for this type material, confine your comments to food baits.) Various topics will be discussed, such as feeding devices, suitable foods and baits, problems with aggressive species, winter mortality, strays and accidentals, and summer feeding. Also, something will be said as to the contributions of individual bird-banders.

"I have a fairly adequate supply of information on common visitors, particularly from the eastern and southern states. But I need more information on infrequent or very rare visitors. By this I mean information on numbers banded, dates present, food preferences, or anything about the bird or its habits that might be of interest to the bander. The following are species, in particular, for which I am seeking additional information, but any material is welcome on other unusual visitors:

"Winter Wren, House Wren, Gray-checked Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Veery, Water Pipit (American Pipit of A.O.U. Check-list--Ed.), Cedar Waxwing, Pine Warbler, Yellowthroat (and all other warblers except the Myrtle), Rusty Blackbird, Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting.

"I would particularly like some definite information about some of the wrens and warblers which seem to stray into traps. Are they attracted by the bait, do they find insects, or is it curiosity? And what about vireos? While many of the warblers take artificial bait to varying degrees, I have yet to hear of a single case of any kind of vireo coming to food.

"Any help or information will be greatly appreciated."

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We are sorry to report that EBBA member Mrs. Hannah R. Gray of Wilton, North Dakota, died on September 16, 1952. Her daughter wrote Merrill Wood, "The birds lost a true friend of long standing." We also regret to report the death of member Dr. Barclay S. Fuhrmann, of Flemington, New Jersey, on January 3, 1953.