

AND STILL MORE ON DOWNY AND HAIRY WOODPECKERS!

Mr. Howard P. Mahnken, 55 Delaware Avenue, Lambertville, New Jersey, has this to say about the questions raised by Ann N. Wanek's note on woodpeckers in the July-August 1955 EBBA NEWS, p. 54:

"I am just back from a visit to see David Johnson and his sister, Mrs. Hartmann (Mrs. Henry F. Hartmann, New Hope, Pa.), at Center Bridge, Pennsylvania. While I was there, we discussed the article by Mrs. Wanek, and we can state the following in regard to Hairy Woodpeckers.

"The Hairy Woodpeckers banded during 1953-54 did not return to the traps the next winter. In 1954-55, we fortunate enough to band several more of these woodpeckers. We were able to catch them in traps set at the foot of a tree or in traps right out in the middle of a lawn. Once they had acquired a taste for suet, they did not mind coming down on the ground for it. Downy Woodpeckers have been caught in the same manner.

After banding Hairy Woodpeckers, we noticed that they remained away from the suet feeders for the rest of the day but were seen the next day on the feeders and, from then on, were regular visitors. Banding did not scare them out of the neighborhood. Banded birds were observed that winter and spring in the orchards and in the woods on the Johnson farm. One bird travelled from the Johnson to the Hartmann farm a mile away and fed on suet at both places; this bird was trapped at both places so there is no doubt about this."

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STRANGE SONG SPARROW BEHAVIOR

by Eleanor Dater

I had a very interesting experience with Song Sparrows in the Spring of 1953. I don't know just how to express it on paper. I used my fingers to illustrate it when I told it at Linnaean Society; no one knew the answer.

Time, May 13, 7 a.m. Place, stone wall on side of our property. Actors, two Song Sparrows opposite each other on the wall, heads down as if sparring. Action, first one bowed, then the other bowed; each took a swing of 45 degrees on the wall and repeated the scene, moving

a few inches from the last action. Then, the swing was reversed on the next bow and swing of 45 degrees.

This continued until they had travelled about 18 or 20 feet and out of my sight. I should have followed them, but I was afraid of scaring them away.

My question, "Was that a nuptial dance?" All of the 'big shots' at the museum were at the meeting where I told about it, and none could answer. I know in my own mind that it was, but what I want to know is has anyone else seen the same thing and followed it to its conclusion? --Mrs. John Y. Dater, Jr., 259 Grove St., Ramsey, N.J.

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CAPSULE BIOGRAPHIES

Before the present editor took over some three years ago, there was published a series of biographies of EBBA members. With the thought that members might like to see some more biographies of their fellows, we are presenting here sketches of two EBBA members. Your comments as to this type of material or contributions for use in future issues will be appreciated.

Mr. A. J. FLETCHER

Denton, Maryland

My wife and I have been interested in wildlife since childhood, and it is now our primary interest in life, counting making a living only a necessity and secondary. We went to the same college, taught in the same school, and, when our boy was born, unconsciously dedicated him to the same ideal which we have. This last event removed Mrs. from teaching, but it gave her an opportunity to concentrate on nature. Since that time, I have begun working for the local health department as sanitarian and get over a segment of Maryland territory, which helps in observations.

Since our home is on a lake, we have many visitors to our feeding station which would not be found at less favored locations. We are not yet organized enough to have detailed objectives, but these will develop as our activity grows. We have assisted in the organization of a local bird club, and all of our activities together are intended to help our locality to appreciate more the bountiful wildlife which we