

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."

* * *

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