

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 experience 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 apparent 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-