

NOTES AND NEWS

We deeply regret the very late mailing of the January, 1962 issue. The principal difficulty was loss of page proofs of the entire issue in the mail from the editor to the printer. Unfortunately, as some time normally elapses between return of page proofs and mailing of the issue, it was over two months before this loss became known. Issues have not been fully on time apart from such a loss, but we intend to advance our copy deadlines gradually to improve this timing.

Continued very heavy demand for nets resulted in some shortages during the spring of 1962, with delays in filling orders. We have very large shipments on order, and hope to reach the position of being able to fill orders immediately at all seasons. However, when your need for nets can be anticipated in advance, early orders are still a desirable safeguard.

As this issue goes to press (early May), all future shipments received by us from Japan will involve a higher price to the manufacturer (and consequently higher customs duties). This represents higher costs in Japan. This is our first general price increase since early 1958, although meanwhile we have absorbed the extra costs from two or three increases in U.S. postage rates. Our prices for net types A, C and E will be higher now, but prices on types B and D will remain at the old level as long as we have stock on hand which we obtained prior to the increase in prices in Japan. For a current price list, write to: Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 17, Conn.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Bird-Banding Association in late April featured a workshop program, organized by Miss Mary-Rebecca Cregar, which seemed to be welcomed by all those who took part. In the discussion on project planning, a natural question was how the bander can tell what he has at his own banding station which is worth concentrating on as a project. One answer was to be familiar with the literature on the species which the station has a good opportunity to work on, so as to find out whether the information available at the station fills a gap in present knowledge, or shows a regional variation in some way.

Another productive approach is to be familiar with recent discoveries on species *not* handled by the station, to see if the same principle applies to the species which the station does handle (negative results are of course of interest, too). This is one kind of gap in our knowledge of the latter species. Usually, the most useful comparison is with a related species, or one of somewhat similar size and habits; it is much harder, for example, to use life history studies on loons or grebes to suggest studies on goldfinches. As one example, the Painted Bunting in Oklahoma has been found to have the male care for the young of the first brood, out of the nest, while the female is incubating a second clutch of eggs (David F. Parmelee, *The Breeding Behavior of the Painted Bunting in Southern Oklahoma*, *Bird-Banding*, 30: 1-18, January, 1959). The extent to which other species have a similar habit is by no means well known, in general.

Considering the wide variety of publications with material of interest, there is no simple way for the bander to find all the material on his special problem. Looking at recent back issues of a periodical such as *Bird-Banding* is often helpful, for what is actually in the issue and leads gained through bibliography. Beyond that, ten-year indexes can be of major help. It is useful to save time in locating a particular reference, but the greatest potential savings are in avoiding waste motion on a project for lack of the right background information. Mrs. Downs, NEBBA's Treasurer, has the index for 1941-50, for sale at \$3.00 (paperbound) or \$4.50 (hard covers) to present NEBBA members or subscribers to *Bird-Banding*; or \$4.00 (paperbound) or \$5.50 (hard covers) to others. These prices include postage.