

sical injury to head sockets or eyes. Bird was well nourished; could not have been blinded long. Died next morning. Was this—is this condition due to consuming flies poisoned by DDT? Has anyone a contribution on this whole topic?

Speaking of Contributions to EBBANUS—the NUS is your news-letter, and if you of the membership do not begin to send in items for publication, the NUS will fold up . . . so far as this new editor is concerned! He is not going to—even if he possibly could—compile the NUS alone. He said so to the EBBA authorities when he accepted the job. This paragraph is both an appreciation of the honor paid me by the election (and I do mean honor!) and it is a warning that all of you keep your brains and hands active in the NUS' behalf or you'll have to get—a better editor!—So there :

For instance:

June or July issue will (hopefully) be given over mostly to the topic of baits-for-banding. What are some of your tried-and-tested baits for attracting hard-to-trap birds? We all want to know of some unusual and/or particularly successful bait you've used. . . . Now sit down and write out a few words on a postal card while the subject is fresh in your mind! Address it to R. T. Fuller, Winterton, Sullivan Co., N. Y.

Another future issue will specialize on THE CAT PROBLEM — HOW I LICKED IT! The Editor finds the feline menace at his place very baffling. Not as regards his own pet (he loves

cats!) but, oh, the stray cats of neighbors! He has not yet licked THE PROBLEM—but, HAVE YOU? JUST HOW?

The Editor has also noted a marked decrease in the local Bluebird population. Has any member anything to say about this topic? He noted it in 1948 too. Not so marked a dwindling, however, as that of the Cowbird.

The last issue Ed. can find around the house of BIRD BANDING NOTES (issued, you know, by Fish & Wildlife Service—at odd moments, and irregularly), is that of June 1948. Will someone who knows inform him if there's a later one distributed to us. NUSED. is constrained to ask for this information because he finds the issue full of requests to banders to do this and that for the betterment of banding and its record-keeping. There are so many important requests and directions in that 1948 issue that all of us would do well to dig out our copy and read it carefully again!

—And, (certainly, this must be heresy, or something) the NUSED. has a hunch that BIRD BANDING NOTES (if issued quarterly) would be the ideal publication for all of us Regional Associations to contribute to. Contribute, I mean, our notes, queries, problems and records. In short, maybe NOTES, issued by the federal agency which has created us Banders, is the logical and ideal news sheet for all of us to combine on. Suggest you get out that 1948 copy and re-read it, for it's full of new directives.

Quote from BIRD BANDING NOTES of June 1948; Vol. 4, No. 1—

“This is the first issue of NOTES since

1946. It is hoped that in the future issues will be at least quarterly. Co-operators are urged to contribute to future issues. Notes on traps, baits, and techniques will be especially welcomed; also suggestions, comments and criticisms pertaining both to this publication and the operations of the banding office are invited."

Now, evidently, the rosy wishes of the F & W L editor of NOTES as to the future of NOTES have more or less completely paled. Due to what failure of plans or finances we know not of. But closer (and more scientific) touch with the Service itself is something we banders might look forward to! What have you to say on this matter?

Merrill Wood's contribution in April EBBANUS as to that experiment about painting traps done at Penn. Agri. Experiment Station, gives us all a definite help: *Our traps should be painted black.* (Unless there was something unscientific involved in the test, which seems doubtful.)

And, what a time Fischer and the Cofeys had themselves in Mexico! We'd like to see a lot of Fischer's photos. New NUSED has an idea (he has yet to try it out!) Take a glass "thistle-tube" with stem some 10" long. Heat and bend tube so that bend acts as a hook to hang the bowl in position from which Hummers can sip honey-water. After birds have learned to feed from this, encase the tube in a top-enter trap (at about former height). Trap should be watched almost constantly.

FLAKES FROM DRIFTS PILED ON
NEW EDITOR'S DESK ALREADY!

Mrs. Dumont (Pequanock, N. J.) banded in 1949 (calendar year?) 477 of 45 species. 31 Returns, 0 Recoveries. "First Purple Martin banded in 16 years." (Why was that?) *Pine Warblers* 23! Tell us how you trap these!

Pres. Groskin's many Returns since Oct. 1945 will be listed next issue.

Alvah Sanborn (Lenox, Mass.) writes: "Just trapped Blue Jay banded by George Wallace 9½ yrs. ago; a Hairy W'pecker banded 10 yrs. ago. He was here at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary before I was." (Letter of March 21, 1949)

"Greatly elongated bill found on Starling caught in banding trap. Maxilla had sustained dorsal crushing injury; showed completely healed scar about midpoint. Also displacement about 24 degrees to left. Tips of bill did not meet; therefore could not receive usual wear. A normal bill grows at tip, but without this constant wear this bill became much prolonged; mandible measuring 36 mm instead of normal maximum 25. Maxilla measured about 28 mm. The nares, being proximal to the injury, were not involved. Bird could not eat normally; did not however show any sign of emaciation. . . ." writes H. B. Wood (What do you guess it fed on, Harold?) He says he banded and released the bird.

C. Brooks Worth: "Was interested reading Smiley's Robin recoveries (p. 4, NUS for Jan. '49). His second record, from Frostproof, Fla., says "Caught eating strawberries". Having lived near strawberry center of Fla. over a year, I know something of how such robins are "caught"—generally by means of a shot-