

Anyone who wishes to have a copy of the Ways and Means Committee on the bill may have one by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Eleanor E. Dater, Box 242, Ramsey, N.J.

Acorn Crop Collapses In many sections of New Jersey and New York there is no acorn crop of any kind this year. This is due to a heavy frost in May of 1960 when the pin, red, and black oaks were in bud or blossom. The same thing happened this year at the time the white oaks were in bud or blossom.

It takes two growing seasons for the pin and black oak families to mature their acorns. They blossom every year; thus both immature and maturing acorns are on the tree at the same time. The white oaks mature their acorns in one season.

It seldom happens that the failure occurs in the white and black oak simultaneously, but this is one of those years. It is highly possible that there will be no pin and black oak acorns again in 1962, as there was a heavy frost in May of this year, as noted above. I can find no immature acorns locally.

In areas close to large bodies of water frosts did not damage the buds. For example, there are sections of Greenwood Lake, N.J., close to the lake that have acorns; a short distance away from the lake frost hit hard. In Blooming Grove, N.Y., there are no acorns of any species according to a report from Martha Earl.

Two species of birds, the Grackles and Blue Jays, are dependent on the pin oak in particular for a great portion of their winter food. The paucity of acorns caused a general exodus of Blue Jays in September and early October. I haven't seen or banded a jay since the first week in October. Martha Earl reports that they had a large migration of Blue Jays from the middle of September into early October.

Squirrels and other rodents will undoubtedly be affected by this crop failure. It is sincerely hoped that the squirrels will emigrate and get lost. Whether there will be enough slump in the other rodent population to affect the wintering owls and hawks only time will tell.

Are other sections of the Northern States similarly affected? How about Pennsylvania and the New England States? Can you add to this picture in any way?

Eleanor E. Dater, Box 242, Ramsey, N.J.

ANNUAL MEETING Remember to reserve April 27-29, 1962, the weekend after Easter, for the Annual Meeting at Cape May, New Jersey. It will be well worthwhile. See page 152 for a new feature of the meeting. More meeting details will appear in the next issue.