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BIRD TRAP WITH FABIAN ENTRANCE USED IN 1854
by Lewis H. Barnes and Arthur H. Fast

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Richard B. Fischer
140-49 Beech Ave.
Flushing, L. I., N. Y.

In his "Personal Memoirs" (1888) General Philip H. Sheridan of Civil War fame, states that in 1853 he "was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant" in a regiment of United States Infantry stationed at Fort Duncan on the Mexican border near Laredo, Texas. He "reached Fort Duncan in March, 1854" and lived there "for nearly sixteen months." In Vol. I, pages 30-31 of the Memoirs, appears the following:

TREASURER

Merrill Wood
811 N. Allen St.
State College, Pa.

"At this period I took up the notion of making a study of ornithology.....and I spent many a leisure hour in catching specimens by means of stick traps, with which I found little difficulty in securing almost every variety of the feathered tribes. I made my traps by placing four sticks of a length suited to the size desired so as to form a square and building up on them in a log-cabin fashion until the structure came almost to a point by contraction of the corners. Then the sticks were made secure, the trap placed at some secluded spot, and from the centre to the outside a trench was dug in the ground, and thinly covered when a depth had been obtained that would leave an aperture sufficiently large to admit the glass of bird desired. Along this trench seeds and other food were scattered, which the birds soon discovered, and of course began to eat, unsuspectingly following the tempting bait through the gallery till they emerged from its farther end in the center of the trap, where they contentedly fed until the food was all gone. Then the fact of imprisonment first presented itself, and they vainly endeavored to escape through the interstices of the cage, never once guided by their instinct to return to liberty through the route by which they had entered."

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Thus there was in use at a frontier army post, as early as 1854 or 1855, a successful bird trap with a Fabian entrance.

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Among the new members: Mr. F. V. Crich #5 St. Germaine Street, Toronto, Ontario, is one of Canada's best known bird photographers. Also he is a professor of geography at a vocational training school.

W. R. Fuller, 4 Gould Circle, East Hartford, Conn., the son of E.B.B.A. vice-president Raymond T. Fuller, is the head of the Weather Bureau Station at Brainard Field outside of Hartford.