

released. Although it had some difficulty alighting on its first attempt, it subsequently was successful. She had seen many banded birds around her traps which looked all right and walked normally. Both birds with overlapped bands were males which she thinks have heavier and thicker bills than females. She plans to study this latter sex factor more carefully.

Anyone handling Grackles knows that they have powerful bills, so it would seem to be possible for them to crush their bands in some cases. Mrs. Butler's two crushed bands were consecutive members of the same series, suggesting the possibility of soft bands. Does anyone else have information on this subject?

BIOGRAPHY

This month's biography features Dr. Paul H. Fluck of Lambertville, N. J. Here is his story.

"Chasing birds since college days, more recently through Central America, Alaska, Hawaii, and the 48 states, I set out to see all of the 174 units of the National Park system, and, somehow, after ten years, managed to do it. Have an A.O.U. check list of 463 species to date - life list, counting foreign bird species of over 600.

"Banding since 1945, about 60 species, including one Clay Colored Sparrow, first I think in New Jersey, Osprey, Great Horned Owls, Night Herons, and one Saw Whet Owl this winter. Have only picked up one foreign band, that of Gillespie (J. A. Gillespie of Glenolden, Pa.) a Titmouse. Main interest right now is Starlings and Mourning Doves. Am trying to catch my hundredth Mourning Dove this spring.

"Only real contribution to bird banding has been two traps, the "6" trap, a sparrow trap for lady banders to build in an hour (really it was the secret of my success with Mourning Doves) and the net thrower, powered by linked rubber bands cut from inner tubes, also some experimental work on bird injuries and repairs.

"Right now my biggest worry is that I have 35 nice traps, including a portable house trap, 9 x 6 x 6', two big hand operated flap traps, 3 sparrow traps, 3" 6" traps, two Binkles, my net thrower, two three celled top openers, one large top opener, etc. and can only find time to band about one day a week. I've always wanted to find some bander who wanted to help out with a Delaware Valley banding station. It's a shame to use those traps only one day a week."

Can't someone help Dr. Fluck with his trap problem?