

TRAPS AND STATION RECORDS

Mr. Frank Frazier, 424 Highland Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J., who has been one of our most faithful contributors, has sent the following resumé of his banding work:

"Here is my trap record from January 13, 1949 (the day I started banding) until July 31, 1951. I have divided the traps into types, as you will see.

In operation most of the time are the following:

- 5 Mazes (these include a Fabian, a Mason and a Gill Sparrow trap)
- 2 Drop Door traps (sometimes called Beginner's Flat traps)
- 6 Trip Step traps (4 are one cell about 6x6x8"
 - 1 single cell 12" cube and
 - 1 a two cell - each cell a 12" cube)
- 3 Top-Opening traps (2 one cell 6x6x8",
 - 1 one cell twice as big)
- 1 House trap

(This trap is a six foot cube with four openings; a door, 6 ft. high and 3 ft. wide, two funnels on opposite sides, and one underground entrance on the fourth side. Door is wide open until released by a pull string. It's designed after Jeff Gill's, but his only opening is the door.

House Trap Plan

"The Miscellaneous classification consists of: in the case of Nuthatches, most of them were caught in a Graves tree trap; other birds, of course, are caught in this trap also, notably Downy Woodpeckers. The Miscellaneous section includes birds banded when people call up and tell me that they have a bird in their house, or in a street drain, and a few nestlings, including 11 Herring Gulls.

I use for bait a mixture of bird seed and chick feed. I add sunflower seed for special occasions to trap Blue-Jays, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Cardinals and Purple Finches, but I have terrible gray squirrel trouble! I use suet of course in the Graves tree trap and sometimes mix peanut butter and suet, particularly in winter. I always add a few pieces of bread both for visibility and because many different kinds of birds seem to go for it. I add berries in season. Dogwood berries particularly are colorful and keep for a long while. The Hermit Thrushes like barberry bush berries.

I have tried every sort of location and find that if the traps are placed near shrubbery with the openings placed away from the shrubbery, I get the best results. This is not necessary, however, with the winter residents, particularly when snow is on the ground. I use water as a lure in the House Trap and in the Gill Sparrow Trap with considerable success. Robins and Warblers are particularly attracted by the water dripping into the pans.

I keep a couple of traps on shelves 7 or 8 feet from the ground but have had only minor success with them. One top opening trap is always on a stump about two feet off the ground near the bird bath. This seems moderately successful."

"Note: During period house trap was in operation, Jan. 1 to July 31, 1951, 339 of 1473 birds trapped were taken in house trap (22.3%)."

Note: Complete trap record will be shown in a future issue.