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Terms Expiring 1955

Dr. Maurice Broun, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Kempton, Penna. Arthur H. Fast, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Virginia Mrs. Howard G. McEntee, 490 Fairfield Ave., Ridgewood, N.J.

DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW TO CATCH WHIP-POOR-WILLS?

Mr. Ralph K. Curtis, Route 1, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, writes about a problem to which the Editor has no ready answer. Perhaps there is some bander who has had experience along these lines and who will be willing to share with us the benefit of his knowledge. Mr. Curtis says:

"Whip-poor-wills have been a subject of close observation for me during the past two years. I note that they never have been widely banded, and I appreciate, to a certain extent, why

not, after having unsuccessfully tried. Perhaps there are some EBBA NEWS readers who have had some experience banding Whip-poor-wills. I would appreciate any tips on turning one into any type of trap that would capture it.

"During the two Summer seasons we have lived at this location, 1952 and 1953, we have been visited regularly by Whip-poor-wills at dusk and at dawn, with an occasional disturbing call during the night. One, and often a pair, will come and alight in the driveway or squat on the front door step. The first year we observed them frequently eight feet away, and this last Summer we made a couple of unsuccessful attempts at trapping one.

"On the first occasion, I rigged up a minnow net in a circular position, about 30 inches in diameter on the wooden porch. A draw string was attached, at three points, to lift and close the net above the bird. For a few days, the bird did not stop at the accustomed perch. However, when it did, the action of the trap was too slow, and the bird escaped before the trap closed about him. For a time after this, the Whip-poor-will came to the drive but not too the porch. When it did return to the porch, I set up a spot light. This was to be switched on from inside the house to blind the bird temporarily while the draw string was being pulled. The bird came, the light went on, the Whip-poor-will quickly darted away, and the string never did get pulled. By this time, it was too late in July, and the bird came only a few more times, restricting his activities to the driveway."

* * *

Dr. Harold B. Wood, 3016 N. Second St., Harrisburg, Pa., says:

"Arthur Fast was correct about the Waxwings. In twenty-five years of banding here, I have had only one flight of Waxwings in the back yard. But, these fellows would not go into the traps; I did not use currants or raisins.

"Once I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Fast in his home -- an ideal place to trap birds, and then he had just the same 12-cell trap."