

## DRIPPING WATER VERSUS STILL WATER FOR ATTRACTING BIRDS

by Merrill Wood

The usefulness of dripping water as a bait in bird-banding traps was discussed in the Inland Bird-Banding News (Dec. 1953 and April 1954), with some data favoring still water. However, no information was given on the effect of trap location.

A sixty day test was conducted at State College, Pennsylvania, beginning on May 1, 1954, with two all-purpose traps, each equipped with a syphon water-drip system and a bird bath 18 inches in diameter. One trap was located in a backyard and the other one was placed in an adjacent woods. Both traps had dripping water on odd-numbered days and still water on even-numbered days.

The following table presents the results of birds caught under the two conditions:

Species	Number individuals caught with	
	<u>DRIPPING WATER</u>	<u>STILL WATER</u>
Black-billed Cuckoo .....	0	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker ...	2	3
House Wren .....	2	0
Catbird .....	6	5
Brown Thrasher .....	1	1
American Robin .....	28	14
Wood Thrush .....	1	2
Olive-backed Thrush .....	1	2
Starling .....	2	3
Black & White Warbler ....	2	1
Tennessee Warbler .....	1	0
Magnolia Warbler .....	2	0
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	0
Myrtle Warbler .....	1	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler ...	2	0
Bay-breasted Warbler .....	0	1
Black-poll Warbler .....	1	0
Oven-bird .....	0	1
Common Yellow-throat .....	6	1

House Sparrow .....	13	8
Baltimore Oriole .....	3	0
Common Grackle .....	15	22
Brown-headed Cowbird .....	2	0
Cardinal .....	2	0
American Goldfinch .....	6	4
Chipping Sparrow .....	9	2
Field Sparrow .....	2	0
White-crowned Sparrow .....	5	0
White-throated Sparrow .....	5	1
Swamp Sparrow .....	1	0
Song Sparrow .....	1	1
Total individuals .....	123	74
Total repeats (not shown above).....	20	14
Total species .....	28	17

Proving dripping water appears to bring about a fifty percent increase in the number of individuals caught.

--The Pennsylvania State University  
State College, Pa.

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## ABOUT CHICKADEES

Maurice Broun, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Route 2, Kempton, Pa., has this to say about Chickadees as of January 19, 1954:

"Chickadees are our mainstay each winter. We had only eleven individuals at our feeders the first winter (1946-47) that we took up year-round residence here. But these eleven grew to at least 63 birds three winters ago. Last winter, 42 survived the big ice storm, and, of these, 19 represented returns from previous winters. Two of the latter were at least five years old.

"On the last day of 1953, I captured 141-4255, the second bird banded at Hawk Mountain after the war, on January 2, 1947 - a veteran of (at least) eight winters!