

Real

I'LL TAKE A NET
by REV. GARRETT S. DETWILER

Having recently moved to another parsonage in a downtown section of Salem, New Jersey, with a much larger backyard, I was very anxious to try out the greater possibilities for banding that this larger yard afforded.

My desire to band was fired by sighting ten or a dozen Juncos preparing to roost in a row of cedars bordering the fence line. (At my former home, five blocks away, Juncos were a rarity, strange as it may seem.) So the furniture was hardly in place before several traps were set and the wait begun.

After several days of very poor trapping, with a negligible number of birds banded, I decided to try a net. Then things began to happen.

The Juncos, previously noticed during the day and evening, and estimated to be ten or twelve in number, were banded, and the count showed not ten or twelve but twenty-five, then fifty, and then seventy-five. Each calm day, when the net could be set up, four or five more were added to the total. Numerous repeats were taken, but the supply of unbanded Juncos did not seem to diminish.

The net has now been supplemented by two "Six" traps, which Dr. Paul H. Fluck graciously loaned to me in his attempt to get me to save my net until Spring. But who can worry about damaging a net when the birds so obligingly persist in becoming enmeshed?

On one occasion after trapping for two days and banding two Juncos, a net was set up. Within several hours, nine Juncos were taken, five repeats and four new birds.

If your area does not give an opportunity to trap a variety of birds, try a net. You will be interested to find that you will band birds that you didn't know were in the area.

One day, about the middle of November, I noticed the net swaying and found a beautiful, yellow-breasted bird in the net. This proved to be a Yellow-breasted Chat, gorgeously feathered as though it were nesting season. Had I been questioned about chats, I would have assumed

they were all in Central America.

Since the beginning of November, discounting September, the following bandings have resulted:

| BANDINGS | | NET | TRAP |
|----------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Juncos | 103 | 72 | 31 |
| Song Sparrows | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| White-throats | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Purple Grackle | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| Blue Jay | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Goldfinch | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 121 | 84 | 37 |

Four bird-hungry cats in the next yard do not permit the use of a net except when it can be closely watched, so the periods of time devoted to netting have, of necessity, been very brief. But, taking all things into consideration, I still say, "I'll take a net!" --194
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TWO UNUSUAL CAPTURES

by George C. Needham

My banding operations have been rather limited because of a lack of time and a sufficient number of traps. Recently, however, I was able to band a Screech Owl and a drake Mallard under most unusual circumstances.

The Screech Owl flew into our bedroom, through an open window, about 6 a.m. After my dear wife had recovered from the initial shock of having an owl swooping around her head, she was able to close the window and lustily summon me from the kitchen where I had gone to prepare some breakfast before going hunting. With the aid of a turkish towel, I soon had the owl in hand, and it submitted quite readily to having a band placed on its leg.

The Mallard walked through an open door into my brother-in-law's office at the Lukens Steel Company in Coatesville. After flying through