

port. ...Yesterday, Senor Geronimo Reyes, who works at Section One of the Main Depot, was working in the yard, and suddenly a Seagull arrived at a nearby platform scale. ...The Seagull wiated quietly and let itself be taken without demonstration of fright...". (Apr. 7, data incomplete: ..685768)--516 Walnut Lane, Swarthmore, Penna.

(The newspaper story does not give sufficient information for identifying the species of gull concerned, although it is likely that they were Laughing Gulls; however, the band size used (No. 6) is normally used on the larger Herring Gull. Perhaps a reader will recognize the records as referring to his birds and will supply the proper identification and other data. The account is presented by Dr. Worth primarily for its human interest value.--Ed.)

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JOHN A. GILLESPIE DIES SUDDENLY

On Monday evening, March 12, John A. Gillespie, long an EBBA member, suffered a relapse following an operation twelve days earlier and died suddenly. In addition to his widow, Mabel B. Gillespie, also an EBBA member, Mr. Gillespie is survived by a married daughter and two sons. His passing will be mourned by a host of friends both in the business world and in the various bird organizations of which he was a member.

Before his recent retirement, Mr. Gillespie was a buyer for the Sun Oil Company. Joining the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club in 1922, he was later elected a Fellow of that organization and served a term as its president. In his earliest days as a bander, in 1936, your Editor recalls the cordial and hospitable manner in which he was received by the Gillespies and the aid which they gave him in getting started as a bander. Dr. Harold B. Wood, in a recent letter, says that he believes that he first met Mr. Gillespie in 1931 but that he doesn't believe that Mr. Gillespie was one of the charter members of EBBA when it was organized on April 24, 1923.

Always active in the affairs of EBBA, Mr. Gillespie's last appearance was at the Annual Meeting at Hawk Mountain last April, at which time both he and Mrs. Gillespie presented papers. Mrs. Gillespie plans to continue operation of the banding station which she and her husband operated at their home 313 Sharp Avenue, Glenolden, Pennsyl-

vania, but she will be unable to attend the Annual Meeting at Washington Crossing because, at that time, she will be visiting her daughter and family in California.

A few days before his death, Mr. Gillespie sent your Editor what is probably his last bird note, an account of the House Finch which appears elsewhere in this issue. --A.E.C.

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HOW DOES ONE TRAP ENGLISH SPARROWS IN LARGE NUMBERS

by Mary A. Heimerdinger

(Note: The following communication comes as a surprise to the Editor whose chief problem concerning this species is how not to trap it. Although comments from other banders will be welcomed, it would appear to the Editor that the size of the traps used was the chief difficulty. It has been his experience that such small, one-celled traps take English Sparrows only sparingly. On the other hand, larger traps such as the Modesto trap, Middleton thrush trap, and F. & W. Service dove trap take these birds in large numbers. So far as the box trap is concerned, it is effective if one does not take into account the time required to watch it constantly.--Editor)

I started on a research project involving the navigation of non-migrant species. In the little banding that I had done up to that time, I had trapped several English Sparrows and did not think it would be too difficult to trap a large number for the experiment. I intended to band them with colored bands to be able to distinguish each individual bird when it returned to the colony.

For two weeks, I pre-baited several areas I had noticed the birds feeding in. Then I set out three traps, one top-opening, one front-opening, and one two-celled Potter trap, the first two being Gill-made. These traps were baited and left open for another two weeks. Then I set them and awaited results. I caught numbers of Juncos, Chickadees, and, as the Spring wore on, many migrant species. But not once did a sparrow enter the traps. I finally was reduced to using a large box trap, hiding inside a building, string in hand. After three months of this, I caught the grand total of eleven English Sparrows, six squirrels, two cats, and a collie. I dropped the trap on the mammals in an effort to scare them away from the area. My results, due to the small numbers