

BULLETIN AVAILABLE ON ELECTRICAL  
METHOD OF SPRINGING BIRD TRAPS

The Thorne Ecological Research Station announces publication of a bulletin by Oakleigh Thorne, II, describing an electrical method for springing non-automatic bird traps of all kinds. A simple solenoid mechanism is the basis for this method, and has been tested by the author for eight years. It has proved extremely useful in replacing the conventional pull-string method. Copies of the bulletin are available free of charge from Thorne Ecological Research Station, 1707 Hillside Road, Boulder, Colorado. Ask for Bulletin No. 4.

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**CORRECTION** A line was omitted from E. Alexander Bergstrom's article "The Safety of Birds in Nets" in the Nov-Dec issue. At the top of page 78, first line, after "predators," read: "since the latter are readily caught; they may be more vulnerable to animal predators, at least if near the ground."

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Early on Dec. 4, 1956, Mrs. Coffey, Dr. Wendell L. Whittemore, and I looked over a flock of about 25 Laughing Gulls and 250 Common Terns, on the beach at Coatzacoalcos (Puerto Mexico) Veracruz.

BANDED COMMON TERNS AT  
COATZOCOALCOS, MEXICO  
By Ben L. Coffey, Jr.  
Memphis, Tennessee

The birds were not shy and the terns apparently all had the black "shoulders" of the first winter. Since we rarely have the chance to observe the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), we studied them systematically. Using a 20x Balscope I noted at least five terns with bands, 3 on the left leg and 2 on the right leg. I sure would have liked to have had my hands on those birds, but all I could do was look. We left soon afterwards to drive across "the Isthmus".

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**HERRING GULL AGES** A Herring Gull banded as a young bird at Kent Island, New Brunswick, Canada (The Bowdoin Scientific Station) on August 1, 1935, was found dead at Saquish at the tip end of Duxbury Beach, Mass. on August 24, 1956 by Miss Nancy E. Carlock, Powder Point, Duxbury, Mass. The band was no. 35-551117. The gull was 21 years old. Another Herring Gull which I banded at Sheep Island near Kent Island on August 10, 1936 with band No. 36-646363 was found dead at Beaver River, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia. This gull was 19 years old. We have had several of the gulls which have lived 15 and 16 years.

-- Alfred O. Gross, 11 Boody St., Brunswick, Maine.

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