

suggestion that they were seeking the particular habitat in which they are accustomed to finding appropriate food and shelter.

To set the record straight on some of the "strictly diurnal migrants" I'd like to point out that there are records of swallows, swifts and flickers migrating at night. Swallows have been detected several times at night in telescopic studies using the moon as a background. So have Chimney Swifts. There is also a published record of the latter species striking the Washington Monument at night. There are several instances of nocturnal Yellow-shafted Flicker fatalities (ceilmeter, TV tower and Washington Monument. ★ ★ ★

#### OUR BANDING TRICKS

By Dorothy L. Bordner (State College, Pa.)

Perhaps the one thing that we most often lack in our banding stations is, for want of a better term, imagination. It can happen to all, old as well as new banders. Once traps are placed, it is easy to fall into a rut and leave them in the same place even when they are not catching anything.

If perches are placed directly over the entrances to large all-purpose traps, fewer birds escape. Most birds will hop onto the perch as they go from one end of the trap to the other. Therefore, they don't run on the ground in a position to notice the opening.

We have used the small, ground opening, trip-step traps along with our large all-purpose traps with good results. The trip-steps work very well on the ground near our feeder in winter, but catch very few birds in the same position in other seasons. After watching birds walk all around the top of our all-purpose trap looking unsuccessfully for an entrance, we placed two trip-steps on it. We have caught many different species in these traps including several that we never got in the all-purpose trap. Also, placing a two-cell trip-step trap at the end of an all-purpose trap catches some birds that are too dumb (or smart) to find the entrances to the large trap.

Sometimes natural food will cause birds to concentrate in a certain area. For example, an early ripening cherry tree will bring in robins, catbirds, and others from blocks around. By placing traps under the tree and putting all the dropped fruit into the traps, a large percentage of these birds can be caught. We have extended the cherry season by freezing the wormy cherries (unseeded) and using them for bait after the fruit is gone from the tree. The frozen fruit will stay bright red colored for several hours and will attract birds for some time afterward. Wild cherries and choke cherries make good bait, too.

Many times, watching the behavior of birds in and around traps can suggest ways of increasing the efficiency of the trapping operation.

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