

one might find. It was our practice on the island (since it is a Bird Observatory, the only people one meets, other than lighthouse keepers, will be fellow ornithologists) to beat the trap if we were passing. Gently tapping the bushes, making those strange hissing noises that are peculiar to "bird watchers a-flushing" we moved down into the funnel of the trap. Perhaps nothing would move, or sometimes a knowing wren or songthrush would fly back, close to the trap walls and out into the open (they were residents and knew all the tricks of the trap). Often a solitary chiff-chaff or willow warbler would move down the funnel and into the catching box. There were, however, those occasions that remain vivid memories: an excited shout, "It's a Hoopoe!" and down into the end of the funnel would fly that beautiful vagrant from the more central parts of Europe. We may on occasion get a small warbler unfamiliar to us, and then ensued the excitement of weighing and measuring, counting primaries and secondaries - a reed warbler that might be a Blyth's, but never was! Finally the rare occasion when there was a rush. A beat produced a catching box full of fluttering birds. These would be taken to the observatory laboratory, weighed, measured (and identified, if necessary), banded, and released. This done, on a good day another beat would produce another box full of birds. I understand that the Heligoland trap has not been used in this country to any great extent. If this be the case, then banding here has been without one dimension of excitement.

The diagram: I have shown a simple Heligoland trap plan. The entrance to the funnel may be 25 - 30 feet wide, and the height of the trap will usually be 8 feet. The funnel is, of course, roofed with netting. Thirty feet from the entrance, the funnel changes direction, narrowing down to a width of about three feet. At the end of the funnel is a glass-ended catching box. The beater, having put the bird beyond the swing door, may close it by pulling a string which runs from the door to the funnel entrance. Similarly, he may remote control the door of the catching box. The box stands on legs so that it is some five feet off the ground.

Syracuse, N. Y.

111

THANKS FROM
DR. PAUL FLUCK

The following is taken from a letter from Dr. Fluck to President Dater: "Please express my thanks to the officers and members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association for the helpful check Mrs. Dickerson sent to the Washington Crossing Park Bird Banding Station last week. This contribution will be used to purchase equipment needed in one of our scheduled banding research projects, quite possibly a long-planned study on corneal injuries of netted birds. Jeanne and I are honored by EBBA's endorsement of our programs and we hope that other banders will undertake similar banding programs, in their own areas."