

Parke-Davis OXYCEL which can be obtained in drug stores. Looks like cotton. Just stick a small piece on bleeding area and hold with pressure for a few seconds. Let the bird go with cotton attached. Bird watchers for miles around will go into fits raving over the 'White-nosed Whatzit' in the neighborhood - but who cares? Oxycel doesn't cost much, and a bottle will last a long time."

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY by Norman Fischer (Sept-Oct 1957, p. 73). Bird banders really have an inside track in wild bird photography... Some of the most frequently asked questions by banders visiting the Washington Crossing Park banding station are about bird photography. We'll run through some of them here on the chance that the answers gained through experience might be helpful.

What kind of camera do you use?

A Praktika (also called Rival Reflex, Praktiflex, Astraflex 35) with an f2.8 Zeiss Tessar lens with pre-set diaphragm.

How much does this cost?

About \$60.00, if bought from Peerless, Hamilton House, or several of the other large photo shops. See ads in Photography, U.S. Camera, or Modern Photography magazines.

What is the advantage of this type of camera?

Any single-lens reflex makes it easy for you to frame and focus your subject, even at extreme close-up ranges. You get what you see in the ground glass screen of the finder. The relatively low price helps make it possible to spend more on the accessories you will also need.

What accessories?

For the close-ups you need a set of extension tubes or a bellows to space your lens farther away from the body of the camera (i.e. from the film). To be sure of good lighting you should have an electronic flash (strobe) gun with a ring flash unit.

All that sounds too complicated. What is this strobe and ring flash business?

Modern strobe lights are not too different from ordinary flash guns, except that you don't have to change bulbs for each shot. You'll get about 10,000 flashes from the bulb you buy. The ring flash is simply a circular tube which screws or slips on to the end of your lens and plugs into the power case of the strobe unit. It's the only gadget which gives you

the even lighting you need for good close-ups.

How much does all this cost?

Set of extension tubes, \$7 (see Spiratone ad). Bellows, \$15. Basic strobe unit, \$45. Ring flash, \$35. Mighty-lite or Heiland strobes are recommended.

Is it safe to buy those things by mail?

We have seen some attempts at unsatisfactory substitutions by a few of the large stores. If possible, bring a knowledgeable friend to help you do the shopping in person; if not, you have ten to thirty days to try out the equipment and return it without charge if it isn't just what you want.

How can you take a photograph of a wild bird without holding it?

By doing photography in a totally dark room - a trick learned from Dr. Fluck. Set your camera on a tripod and focus it on a twig beforehand. Bring your bird in, turn out all lights, and set the bird on the twig. Generally it will sit perfectly still and you can get three or four shots in a row. It is advisable to take at least two, since the bird looks more alert after the first flash.

A CARNIVOROUS SQUIRREL

By G. Hapgood Parks

We have always considered the gray squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis) to be nothing worse than a disconcerting source of annoyance at bird-feeders. This morning, however, we find ourselves obliged to classify him as another menace to the lives of netted birds.

Watching our single net from the kitchen window I saw several birds fly against it. I started at once, stopping only long enough to don my rubbers against the dampness of the morning dew. The net is situated about 75 feet from our back door.

As I approached the net I observed a gray squirrel astride of a motionless Slate-colored Junco in the bottom tier of the net which the animal's weight had forced down against the ground. The squirrel fled and I discovered that the bird's head had been severed and apparently eaten or carried away. Less than two feet away in the same tier a second Junco was found to be dead. Its head was severely crushed. No other part of either body revealed mutilation of any sort.

Four other Juncos were removed from the net unharmed.