

FIRST SAW-WHET OWL FOR ALABAMA
By James C. and Margaret L. Robinson

Although the Saw-Whet Owl was believed to be a winter resident in, or occasional visitor to, Alabama, the first definite record was that of an adult bird mist-netted and banded by us on November 10, 1961.

On our way to make a first check of our nets that morning, we commented on our not having caught a Screech Owl for a long time. The nets were filled with birds, and in our hurry to get them into the gathering box, we removed a small owl, crammed it into the box, and laughed about getting a Screech Owl. In taking it from the net, we did notice that it put up no fight at all, and thought this a bit unusual. Imagine our complete surprise when we took the owl out to band it, to find it had no "ears", and did not have the right markings to be a Screech Owl! We found that everything we read about its being so gentle and tame was true. It seemed to enjoy being petted, and reacted little to our taking flash pictures for slides in color.

Charles W. Summerour III, of Birmingham, Alabama, established the second state record for the Saw-Whet on December 26, 1961. This leads us to believe that these owls may be here in large numbers this winter, along with more Purple Finches, Cedar Waxwings, Evening Grosbeaks, and Red-breasted Nuthatches than usual. If these and other birds came further south than usual, because they "foresaw" a bitter winter, they were in for a shock. We have had many record low temperatures in the Gulf States.

Route 1, Box 91, Brownsboro, Alabama

★ ★ ★

MASON TYPE GROUND TRAP
Cost only \$10.50 postage paid
Available in Kit Form from:

H. E. Harlow, 47 Scotland Rd., Reading, Mass.

A fine trap can now be purchased at reasonable cost. Mrs. Bander you can assemble this trap with the blank bird bands furnished using your regular bird-banding tools.

The Mason Trap is a large two entrance labyrinth type ground trap (18" wide, 24" long, 8" high). This trap is not a "one at a timer" - we have often taken as many as fifteen birds in a single catch.

ALSO AVAILABLE A TRANSFER CAGE (USEFUL AS A STRING CONTROLLED TRAP). ALL ASSEMBLED \$2.75 POSTAGE PAID.