

believe that at times (and for many species) when birds are hard to catch, careful attention to where bait is placed in the trap is very important. When using chick feed for sparrows, how much is scattered outside can be a determining factor or a hindrance to success.

With a water-drip trap, especially a top opening one, as a chardonneret, a curved stick stuck in the ground so that it forms a perch near the opening serves to keep the bird from alighting on the trap and possibly springing it before he is inside.

I feel that traps should be designed with bird "psychology" in mind. For many years I have used a clover-leaf trap of my own design with good success. In this the 3 "leaves" are egg shaped (large end out). Bait is placed toward the small end of each "egg" so that a bird reaching the wire from the general vicinity of the center of a leaf gets nearer the bait as he moves along the wire. A fourth pile of bait is put at the very center of the trap. This the bird sees through one of the entrances to the trap, at about the time he reaches the point on the periphery of the "egg" where he no longer gets closer to one of the first baits. There are other psychological features of this trap which could best be demonstrated with a model.

It seems to me that some of our ornithologists might be able to help us to better understand the psychology of bird behavior by acquainting us with the latest knowledge of the way birds sense their surroundings. How do birds react to wire mesh with different sizes and shapes of openings? Is the color of trip threads significant in making them less obvious to birds? Is it a waste of effort to use bread or other berries to bait traps in or under a mulberry tree?

I have raised more questions than I can answer. Some value may come of this, if banders are stimulated to think about how a bird may react in connection with traps and bait.

Lake Mohonk Mountain House, Mohonk Lake, New York.

68-TIME REPEATER NOW ALSO A RETURN
By Malcolm Oakes

This short story might be entitled "Persistent Grackle Comes Home". We called him "Dopey" because he came back to the same maze trap so often - 68 times between the day he was banded on June 18th and his last visit on August 13th 1961 - some times as many as four times the same day. By the time he left for parts unknown he was badly battered with no sign of a tail. On June 1st 1963 I thought that band number 683-96814 seemed vaguely familiar. Sure enough "Dopey" had returned in fine shape with his full male plumage but just as noisy and cantankerous as ever. I wonder where he spent the summer of 1962?

Westport Point, Massachusetts.