

MORE TURTLE TROUBLE  
By Constance Katholi

Re Mrs. Warburton's story "Turtle Trouble" in EBBA News (Vol. 28, No. 3), I experienced a strange coincidence. A day or so before the arrival of that issue of the News, my paperboy had stopped at the door to tell me that he had just seen a turtle eating a bird as he was coming down the path through the woods. Upon immediate investigation I discovered a large eastern box-turtle voraciously eating what I believe was an immature bluejay. The bird was so wet and dirty after a day-long rain that I could not positively identify it then, but removed the wing (amid hissing from the turtle) for future examination.

Nets were not involved in this episode, so my story does not contribute to Mrs. Warburton's inquiry on the subject. Rather, I am asking further questions of my own--Can turtles capture active, healthy birds, or was this one injured in some way and hence helpless? Finally, do turtles eat carrion?



THE DOUGH MIXTURE  
By Constance Katholi

Several articles recently have dealt with natural, or inexpensive, food for use as bait in traps or for use on bird feeders generally. I am promoting the merits of the "dough mixture," which is, in its simplest form a combination of bacon fat (or other drippings) and flour. There are endless variations which can be made with cornmeal, farina and other cereals fortified if desired with peanut butter. However, my experience has been that the simplest recipe is as attractive as the gourmet variety. Although most people are familiar with this mixture, perhaps they are not cognizant of its potential. It is an all year-round standby food for this station. It appeals to seed-eaters as well as "meat-eaters," being especially attractive to woodpeckers which will enter horizontally placed Potter's traps for it, even though these are placed on the ground. Myrtle warblers will come in for it. This spring a yellow-throated warbler stayed around for a week feeding on it before he finally moved along.

It is excellent as bait in a trap. Parent birds feed it to their young in the nest, and as soon as they are on their own, the fledglings come to the station for it. The only drawback that I have found is that it is "fair-weather bait" unless under cover, as it washes away in the rain.

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