

bird right-side-up in your hand and open the hand he usually goes in the direction his head is pointing, i.e. you orient him yourself. That tells nothing of importance. So I thought I would let the bird orient himself.

I made a "release cage" of hardware cloth, a cylinder, about 16 inches in diameter and 9 inches high with the top open. This was mounted on a vertical rod so it was 7 feet above the ground. A piece of fiberboard was laid across the top for a lid.

The bird was placed inside and allowed 15 seconds to orient itself and then the lid was removed, and the azimuth, etc., noted.

But I now found that if, for example, I pulled the lid off the south side of the cage, the bird went north. Whether it was because the north area opened first or whether the big moving object to the south "scared" him to flee north I do not know. Anyway, it was an obvious error in technique. So I arranged a small vertical rod going up through the center of the cage and attached to the center of the lid. This can be manipulated from below where I sit on my chair. The lid goes straight up in a horizontal position. All directions are equally visible and the azimuths the birds take appear no longer predictable. Maybe I'll find some species differences - or something. The main point is that if any of the readers are contemplating the study of behavior after release, watch out HOW you release them.

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - ORNITHOLOGY DEPARTMENT. We are advised that a photographic file is available for use by responsible researchers, of extralimital species and rarities. Researchers wishing to use these services should first contact the Museum. The Museum is located at Central Park West at 79th Street in New York City (ZIP: 10024) and can be reached by phone by calling 212 - 873-1300. Ask for the Ornithology Department. This department also houses and maintains the most excellent bird skin collection in the United States.

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DEADLINE ON PHOTO CONTEST IS 31 December 1971. For details see July-August 1971 issue, page 1901