

After this technique became better known, the Dutch Ringing Centre established a library where the songs of over 400 species of birds are on file. Many banders obtained recording tapes from the Centre so that they were able to experiment extensively.

While we learned that singing males could be easily trapped on their breeding grounds with the aid of recordings, we also discovered that many species reacted favorably to breeding songs during migration.

Another possibility is the roost. Good results have been obtained when the songs of birds found there, are broadcast, beginning well in advance of the arrival of the birds that are known to frequent the roost.

In 1969 and 1970 we captured swallows in a reed field of approximately 400 x 60 meters. Since the roosting area wasn't the same each time, we had to use about eight net lanes of 60 meters each, distributed over the whole field. Even so, it was a question of luck.

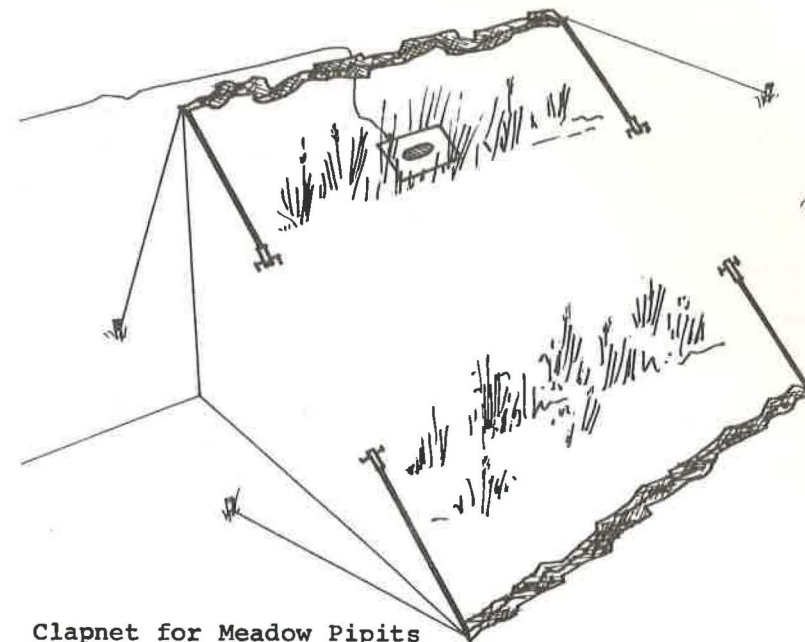
In 1971 we discovered that the swallows preferred to roost around the speaker when it played their song. Since then we only used one net-lane of 60 meters and we captured more birds. In the fall of 1971, we caught circa 2500 swallows!

In 1972 we found that the swallows were even more attracted when we used pre-amplifiers. Thus, we captured 5899 swallows in 47 evenings. We designed a small portable amplifier for the banders, capable of a 4 Watt output.

Based on these latest experiments, we have drawn up the following assumptions:

- A. To capture one or several birds, a recorder which has a 1 Watt output is quite sufficient.
- B. The larger the group of birds, one wishes to decoy, the more volume one has to produce. To capture passerines in groups of 50 to 1000 individuals, an output of 4 to 10 Watt is usually sufficient. For greater numbers of birds, one must use a recorder capable of more than 10 Watt output.

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Clapnet for Meadow Pipits

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We, at EBBA NEWS, have a unique opportunity to aid banders all over the world. Although not many American banders are working with tape recordings, we know there are some who do use this method of capturing birds.

If you have any experiences with recording as a method of decoying birds, please write up your experiences, emphasizing the technical details of the equipment you have in use.

Any papers received will, of course, be published in EBBA NEWS. Copies of same will also be forwarded to Dr. W. Ryzewski, editor of THE RING, a bird-banding magazine which has world-wide distribution. In addition, Mr. Speek will be sent a copy with a translation by your editor.

F.S. Schaeffer
Editor
(Co-Editor, THE RING)