

the notable exception of the warblers). Flycatchers, kinglets and vireos remained about the same levels as in 1971.

We have become what could be called "opportunistic" banders. Each year we have plans to study a species or two which were common before; our plans seem to assure that that year we will catch very few of that bird. So we have had to remain flexible and we study whatever species presents itself in good numbers. In 1972 we were able to learn a great deal about plumages of immature warblers. We have also been tabulating the adult-immature ratios for several of our most common species so that we might be able to determine what the normal ratios are over a period of time. We continue to record as much weather information as possible in order to study its effect on migration. This year, we experimented with all-day netting and found that, as we expected, we caught very few birds between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. We were surprised, however, at the numbers of birds caught after 3:30 on several days, so we may do more late afternoon netting in the future.

All banding was done by Frank Fish and myself, with assistance from Mildred Fish. --Valerie M. Freer

Binghamton, New York

This is the third year this station has participated in the Atlantic Flyway reports although good records exist for four years.

Operating conditions were the same as in other years so will not be redescribed.

This year, nets were up 16 days in August (starting August 1st), 19 days in September, 11 days in October and two in November (ending November 4th), making 48 days in all.

I found myself confused by the early August banding as I felt almost 100 percent of the birds banded were my own summer residents. None had any fat and all were species that nest here. On August 18th I got what I felt reasonably sure were true fall migrants. I would very much like advice and comment on this.

A total of 798 birds were banded. To compare their numbers with other years I have prepared the accompanying chart covering the past four years for those species of which I have netted 15 or more individuals in any one year. The five most commonly banded birds were: whitethroated sparrow 106, catbird 77, yellowthroat 51, purple finch 48, song sparrow 38. This year is the first time in the last four years that the red-eyed vireo and the black-capped chickadee have not been on this list. The catbird is the only one that has been on the list every year of the last four. The yellowthroat, purple finch and song sparrow

all appear on this list for the first time in the four years.

The chart indicates significant declines this year in the following species: black-capped chickadee, robin, swainson's thrush, red-eyed vireo, cape-may warbler, blackpoll warbler and slate-colored junco. Significant increases this year occurred for Nashville warblers, magnolia warblers, yellowthroats, purple finches, rufous-sided towhees and field sparrows.

The thing that impresses me most about this chart is the great amount of variation all species seem to exhibit from year to year. The figures for the catbird are perhaps the most stable. I presume the weather influences this considerably and this year the serious floods and heavy rains in June must have made a difference. However, in my case, I must also consider the fact that seven years ago the farm on my northwest line between me and the Susquehanna River, was sold to developers so instead of fields, we now have rows of houses. The land on the other three sides of my 50 acres is still undisturbed.

My greatest interest in the fall migration was once again the age-ratio of the migrants. Once again, my station had a decided preponderance of HY birds despite its being an inland station- an inland station within two miles of the Susquehanna River, however, which must be considered a very conspicuous north-south geographical feature. Of 798 individuals banded, 532 or 66 2/3 percent were HY, 144 or 18+ percent were AHY and 122 or 15+ percent were of unknown age. A chart accompanies this report that shows the age-ratio for those species of which I captured 19 or more individuals. Only the myrtle warbler had over 50 percent HY. All of the rest- except the purple finch of which 81 percent were U - had more HY birds than anything else. This is the fourth year in a row that my records have shown this same condition.

I had one new bird this year - a Lawrence Warbler - not only new for my station but also new for my life list (see page 101-102, this issue. Editor).

High days were August 26th (26 birds), September 19(33), September 27(56), October 3(43 birds), October 6(43 birds) and October 11(32 birds).

All banding was done by me, or my sub-permittee, Rick Marsi, under my direct supervision. --Harriet Marsi

(The first table, entitled "Numbers of Birds banded over a four year period of several significant species" has been omitted due to its length. Also, the author has described the content of this table rather well in the text. The second table follows. Editor)

| SPECIES | HY Indiv/% | AHY Indiv/% | U Indiv/% | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------|
| Least Flycatcher | 21/91+ | 2/9- | 0 | 23 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 18/69 | 6/23+ | 2/8- | 26 |
| House Wren | 21/91+ | 2/9- | 0 | 23 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 12/54+ | 0 | 10/45+ | 22 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 15/63- | 9/37+ | 0 | 24 |
| Nashville Warbler | 19/76 | 3/12 | 3/12 | 25 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 23/92 | 2/8 | 0 | 25 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 8/42+ | 10/53- | 1/5+ | 19 |
| Black-throated Green W. | 19/76 | 4/16 | 2/8 | 25 |
| Yellowthroat | 40/78+ | 8/16- | 3/6- | 51 |
| Purple Finch | 6/12+ | 3/6+ | 39/81+ | 48 |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | 15/75 | 5/25 | 0 | 20 |
| Field Sparrow | 13/57- | 8/34+ | 2/9- | 23 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 80/75+ | 5/5- | 21/20- | 106 |
| Song Sparrow | 21/55- | 4/11- | 13/34+ | 38 |
| Total birds for station | 522/66 2/3% | 144/18+% | 122/15+% | 798 |

*

Friendsville, Pa.

This fall's banding activities at my station were sadly curtailed by the wet weather. Net hours, 1248, compare with last year, but the number of birds banded, 298, was about one-half. The station was operated for 39 days from August to November. Eight nets were used.

It is not surprising that the song sparrow was in the top five most numerous species for three out of the four years which this station has operated. Warblers were not present in any significant number. There were five new species among the 38 banded this fall: winter wren, starling, bobolink, grackle and evening grosbeak. -- Claire Gottschall

*

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No bander's library should be without a copy of BIRD-BANDING (published by North-Eastern Bird Banding Association), INLAND BIRD BANDING NEWS (published by IBBA), and WESTERN BIRD BANDER (published by WBBA). To join these fine organizations, please write to their treasurers, whose address can be found below:

NEBBA: Mrs. James R. Downs, South Londonderry, Vermont 05155
 IBBA: Merwood Chipman, Route 2, Box 394, Wautoma, Wis. 54982
 WBBA: Ellis R. Jones, P.O. Box 217, Cave Creek, Ariz. 85331

AUTOMATIC DROP-DOOR TRAP

By C. Brooke Worth

This trap may have been shown to me by Mr. John A. Gillespie or Mr. Raymond J. Middleton in 1928. At any rate, I did not invent it myself, though I used steadily from that year onward.

The trap, made of ½-inch hardware cloth and painted flat black, can be designed with a single door or with doors at opposite ends. The latter arrangement makes it harder to stabilize the trap, but has the advantage of letting birds see straight through. Thus, they do not have to enter a cul de sac.

An outstanding feature of this trap is that it has no floor and that the black trip-thread is virtually invisible against the ground. In addition, it is extremely simple to build and can be made in various sizes. I designed one that was put together with string and therefore collapsible, so that I could carry it in the bottom of a suitcase. (Thanks to that feature, I banded my only Painted Bunting on a lawn in Palm Beach, Florida, during an Easter holiday). This trap can be baited with grain for the usual "bird feeder" clientele. But I found it useful also for species attracted to bread, such as Robins and Starlings, or else for Mockingbirds attracted to raisins. One can bait it also with string or other nesting materials; or it can be placed under a water-drip mechanism. I successfully tacked it to tree trunks over suet holders and caught woodpeckers, nuthatches, creepers, chickadees and starlings; in this case I used the two-door model.

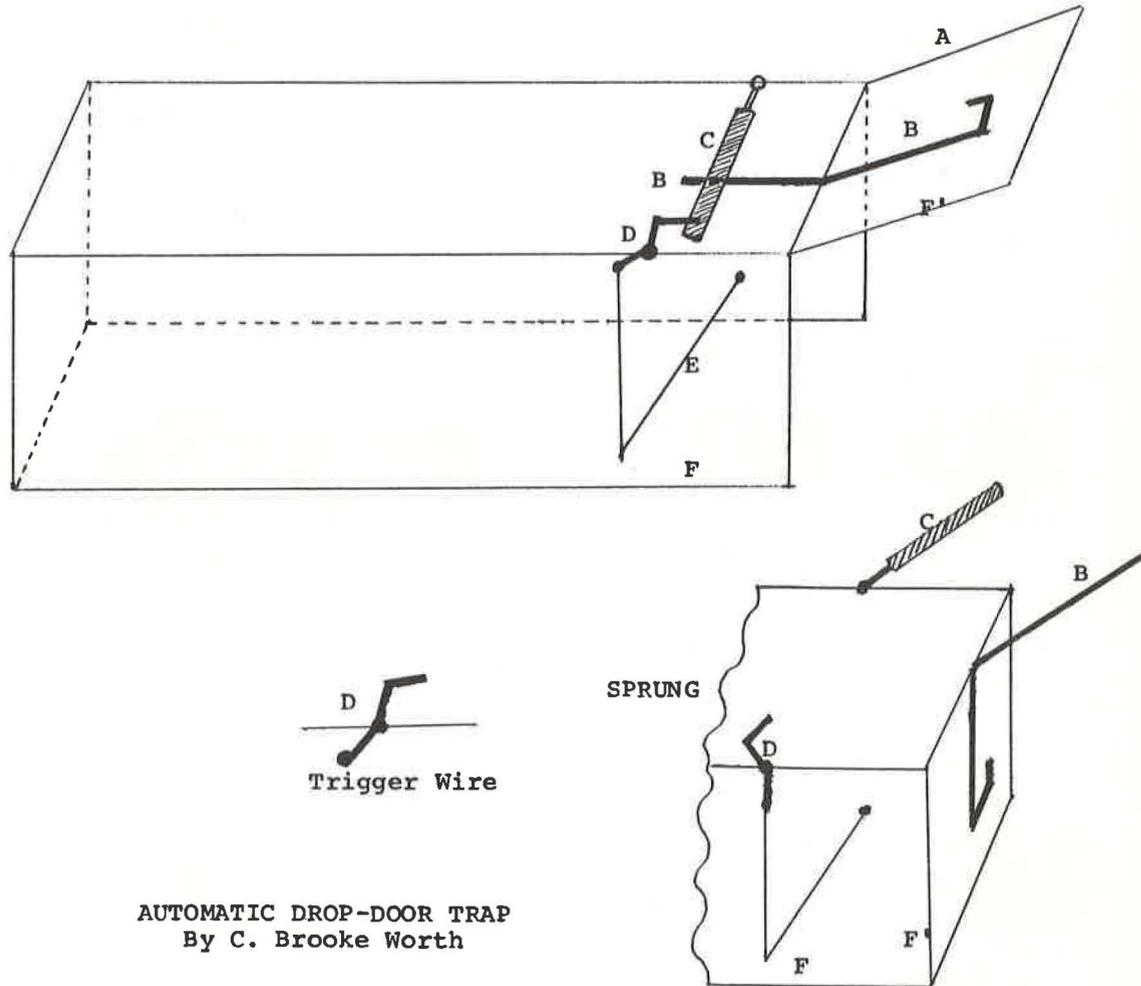
The trap should be provided with a hinged door on top, through which one can reach to remove birds. This door must have a hook to keep it closed at other times.

Closure of the door(s) can be maintained by rubberbands or wire springs. Tension of these, when door is open in the set position, is transmitted to the trigger system and thereby keeps it cocked, ready to go off. When the bird steps on thread (E), it pulls trigger hook (D) off the trigger stick (C) and released the stiff wire (B) that is holding up the door (A).

Legend for figure:

A. Hinged Door; B. Stiff wire, threaded in door and extending under trigger stick; C. Trigger stick, hinged at far end, and holding down the stiff wire; D. Trigger hook, threaded into junction of top and side, and hooked over end of trigger stick;

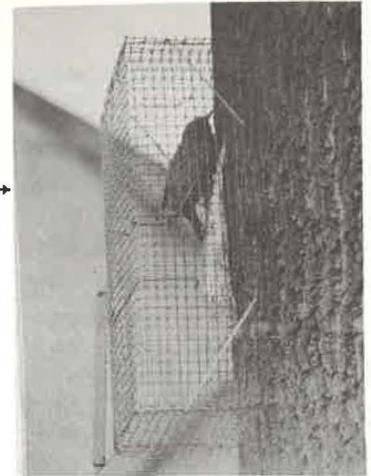
E. Heavy black thread, tied to trigger hook and to far side of trap. This thread should extend horizontally across the trap, about 1½" or 2" above the ground, so that birds step in or stumble over it; F. Rubber bands or springs, F and F', providing tension for trigger system, are not included in the figure, but extend from each side of door to sides of trap at a point several inches from that end of the trap.



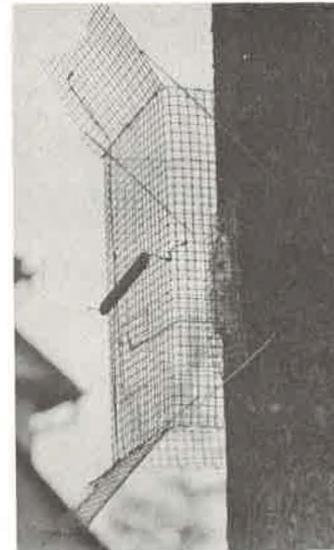
AUTOMATIC DROP-DOOR TRAP
By C. Brooke Worth

1. STARLING CAUGHT IN TWO-DOOR AUTOMATIC DROP-TRAP TACKED OVER SUET HOLDER. NOTE RE-LEASED TRIGGER STICK HANGING DOWN
2. TWO-DOOR AUTOMATIC DROP-TRAP SET ON FEEDING SHELF
3. TWO-DOOR AUTOMATIC DROP-TRAP TACKED OVER SUET HOLDER

(1)→



(2)→
+(3)



-- R.D. Delmont, New Jersey 08314

A THANK YOU LETTER

The Waxwings came today, Lord
 Out of the snowy sky, they came
 Gregarious and graceful
 Zeeking softly as they settled down
 in the gnarled old crab apple tree

I watched them, Lord
 All morning long
 Was that so wrong?
 To neglect the ironing and cleaning
 and give myself the gift of such a morning
 Watching and listening

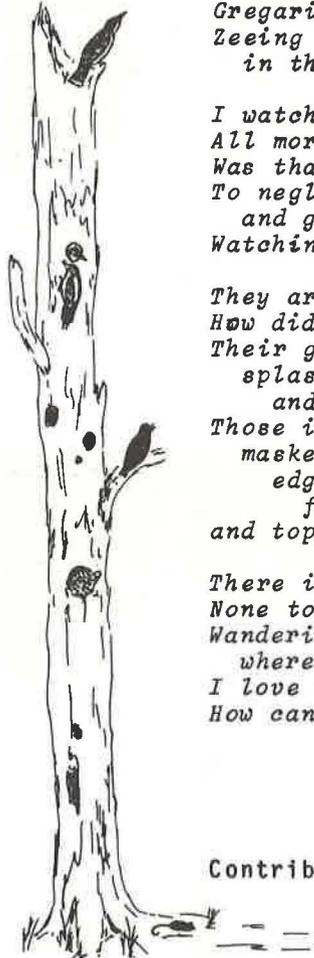
They are so lovely, Lord
 How did you dream them so?
 Their gray velvet-soft bodies
 splashed with yellow and cinnamon
 and cherry red wax
 Those incredibly beautiful faces
 masked with black
 edged in white
 framed with blush
 and topped with an up and down crest

There is no gentler bird, Lord
 None to match the nomadic Bohemian Gypsy
 Wandering --- bringing joy and loveliness
 where'er they go
 I love them so.....
 How can I ever thank you for this morning???

Gratefully,

Koni

Contributed by Koni Sundquist of Duluth, Minnesota



BANDERS' AIDS

TRAPS

Potter type 16ga. 1/2"x1" welded mesh. 1-cell 8" x8"x8" \$3.50; 2-cell 8"x8"x16" \$6.00; 3-cell 8"x8"x21" \$9.00; 4-cell 8"x16"x16" \$12.00. Also others. Postpaid in East; Permit number requested. Order from: Walter K. Bigger, Trout Run, Pa. 17771.

BACK ISSUES OF EBBA NEWS

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| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|------|------|
| 5 meter/1 1/2" mesh | \$1.80* | / \$ | 2.30 |
| 5 meter/1 1/4" mesh | 2.30* | / | 2.80 |
| 12meter/1 1/2" mesh | 3.10* | / | 3.60 |
| 12meter/1 1/4" mesh | 4.60* | / | 5.05 |
| 12meter/2 1/2" mesh | 4.95* | / | 5.45 |
| 12meter/5" mesh | 3.00* | / | 3.40 |

Nylon Tethered-top Fowling Nets

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---|--------------------|
| 9 meter/1 1/2" mesh | 2.95* | / | 3.45 |
| 9 meter/1 1/4" mesh | 4.15* | / | 4.65 |
| 12meter/1 1/2" mesh | 3.65* | / | 4.15 |
| 12meter/1 1/4" mesh | 5.05* | / | 5.55 |
| 12meter/1 1/4" mesh | 5.00* | / | 5.50 (2.6m height) |

Polyester Tethered-top Fowling Nets

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---|------|
| 9 meter/1 1/2" mesh | 4.50* | / | 5.25 |
| 9 meter/1 1/4" mesh | 5.75* | / | 6.50 |
| 12meter/1 1/2" mesh | 5.75* | / | 6.50 |
| 12meter/1 1/4" mesh | 6.65* | / | 7.40 |

(*) Prices with an asterisk are for Sustaining members only. Write to: EBBA NET COMMITTEE, Biology Department, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa. 15701. Shipping is paid (regular p.p. & ins.) on all orders over \$10.00. On orders under \$10.00 there is a 50¢ charge. Penna. residents please add 6% sales tax.

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1973

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