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E B B A N E W S

Eastern Bird-Banding Association News Letter

JANUARY 1952

Published Monthly by

THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

July was a busy month for the Association. The annual meeting was held in New York City, and was a most successful one. The program was well planned and the speakers were of high caliber. The meeting was a most enjoyable one and we hope to have it again next year.

An early start was made in the field of research. The first of the season was a study of the migration of the Red-winged Blackbird. This was done by following the birds from their winter quarters in the South to their breeding grounds in the North.

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THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

"Let Us Band Together"

\$2.00 per year

Vol. 15

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No. 1

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Sec. & Editor - R. O. Bender, R. D. #1, Bridgeton, N. J.
Treasurer - Merrill Wood, 811 N. Allen St., State College, Pa.
Vice-Presidents - Geoffrey Gill - Raymond J. Middleton -
Leroy Wilcox

As we enter a new year it may be well to look ahead to see what problems may confront our Association during 1952. First of all, rising costs may make it difficult to continue the News in its present form. Those of you who enjoy it, and can afford to, can help by taking out sustaining rather than regular memberships. Our present method of printing is relatively cheap and the possible saving by going to straight mimeographing is small unless someone donates a lot of time and effort. This situation is not yet acute but it is a real potential problem for 1952.

An equally serious problem is that of developing interest in EBBA affairs on the part of more members. Items of interest have been contributed for the News by not more than fifty of our members. To them your Editor wishes to express his thanks; to the rest of the members a plea for some item of news interest. Surely there must be something about your stations, activities, or records that would interest and help the rest of us. Incidentally, news has been coming

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in very slowly for the last two months. At this rate your Editor will have to fabricate some or reduce the size of the News. Naturally, only the latter course of action can be considered.

So, in 1952 let us all resolve to help a little more in keeping the News active and interesting.

ANNUAL MEETING

Do not forget the annual meeting which will be on Saturday, March 29, and Sunday, March 30, 1952. The Saturday meeting, which will be devoted to papers on banding and to the business of the Association, will be held in Room 419, Roosevelt Memorial Building, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. A dinner is planned for Saturday evening. On Sunday there will be a field trip to some point of interest. We hope to have a good representation from among our New England friends and members this year - so plan to come. Also plan to send the title, an abstract if possible, an estimate of the presentation time, and a statement regarding projection equipment which might be needed, for your paper to President Groskin or to the Secretary. Do this as soon as you can so that we can advise all of you about the program well in advance of the meeting.

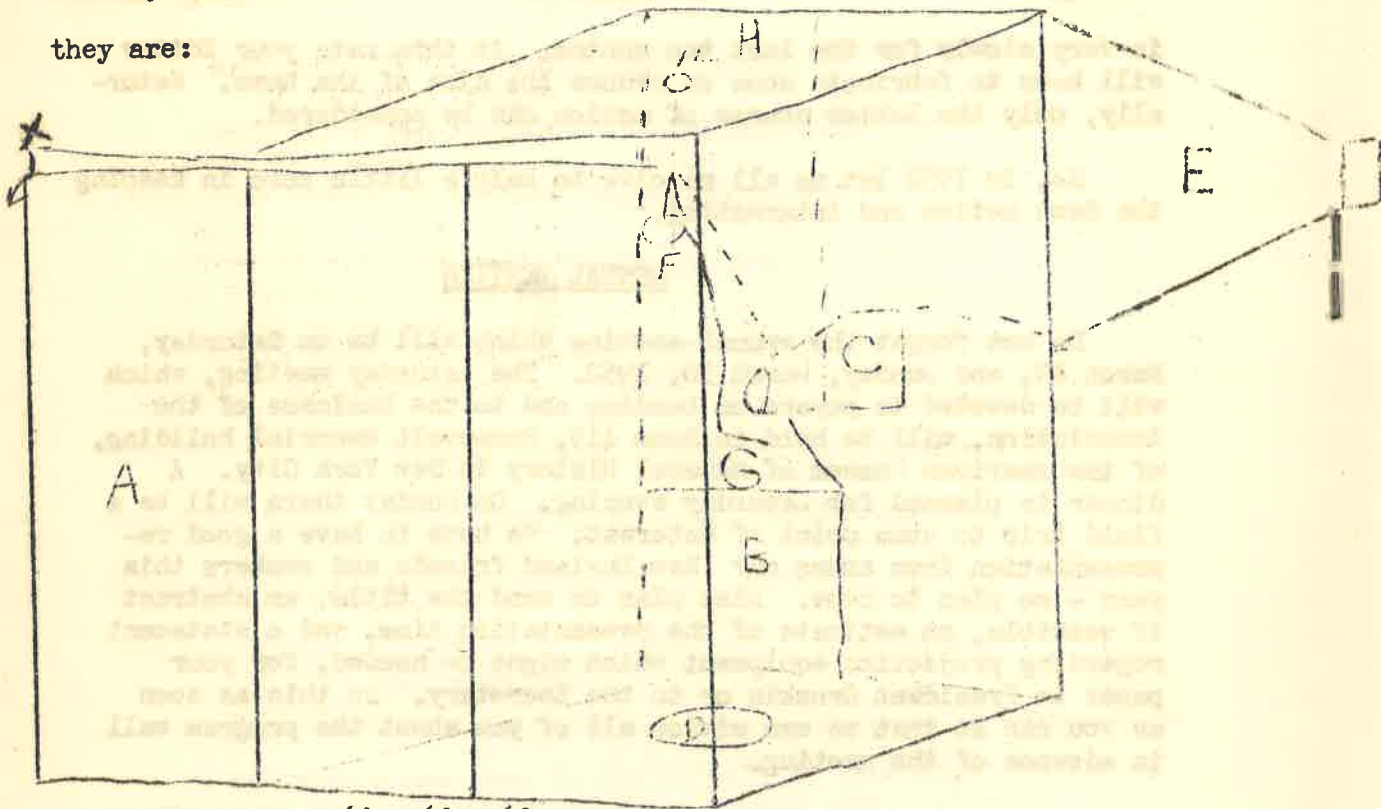
AVIAN ODDITY

This little item from "The Owl" may interest you. "What does a Flicker do when stung by a hornet? Kay Fetter had a nest of hornets in her stone wall and saw a rabbit go up there many times and often wondered if animals were ever stung by hornets. One day a Flicker dug around in the flower bed and all at once he got stung. He jumped up and down, all the time making quite a noise; then he turned over on his back as if he were in pain, gave his alarm cry, and shortly flew away."

CONTINUATION

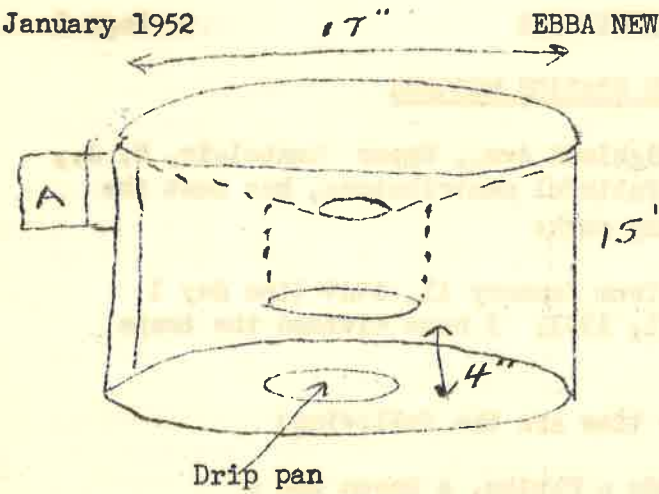
The last issue contained a letter from Mrs. Robert A. Army, Upper Montclair, N. J. and mentioned that some of the drawings which she sent in of her traps would be in a future issue. Here

they are:

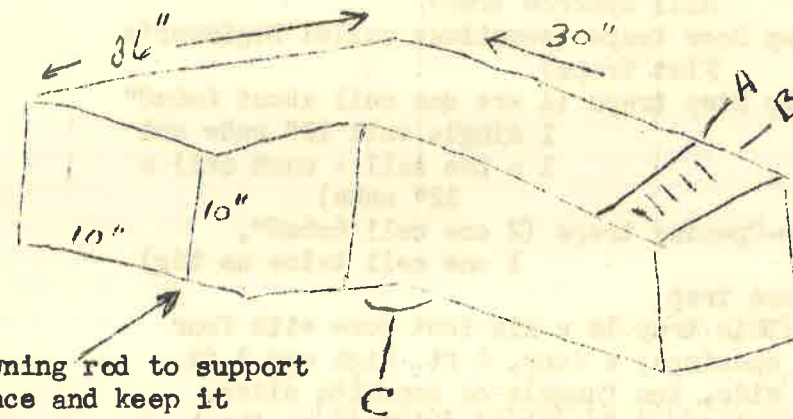


House Trap 6' x 6' x 6'

- A - full length door
 - B - Door one quarter section of back - opens out
 - C - Small funnel opening
 - D - Pan 2' in diameter - Sunk in ground
 - E - Gathering funnel
 - F - Weight - a salt bag full of sand
 - G - Wire mesh which closes funnel C (Warblers escape if this is left open)
 - H - Pulley which holds weight and closes all doors simultaneously.
- Water supplied by constantly dripping hose - a heavy stream runs for Warblers.
 (It does look a bit Rube Goldberg but it works - doors are released by loosening cord X at house.)



This trap differs from regular cohasset in that it has a cylinder of wire below a 3" opening instead of a deep funnel. It is easier to make and easier for bird to enter. The height is reduced to 15". This makes it easier for small birds to enter gathering cage A.



Old awning rod to support entrance and keep it smooth.

- A - Cut out one square 1/4" mesh.
- B - Cut out space 10" x 10" weave in rubber strips.
- C - Opening dug out of soil slope

Regular trap - but have found long gradual slope increases take. Sheet metal slide goes in at A and birds are easily removed at B

I paint my traps dark brown.

TRAPS AND STATION RECORDS

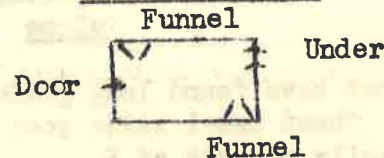
Mr. Frank Frazier, 424 Highland Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J., who has been one of our most faithful contributors, has sent the following resumé of his banding work:

"Here is my trap record from January 13, 1949 (the day I started banding) until July 31, 1951. I have divided the traps into types, as you will see.

In operation most of the time are the following:

- 5 Mazes (these include a Fabian, a Mason and a Gill Sparrow trap)
- 2 Drop Door traps (sometimes called Beginner's Flat traps)
- 6 Trip Step traps (4 are one cell about 6x6x8"
 - 1 single cell 12" cube and
 - 1 a two cell - each cell a 12" cube)
- 3 Top-Opening traps (2 one cell 6x6x8",
 - 1 one cell twice as big)
- 1 House trap

(This trap is a six foot cube with four openings; a door, 6 ft. high and 3 ft. wide, two funnels on opposite sides, and one underground entrance on the fourth side. Door is wide open until released by a pull string. It's designed after Jeff Gill's, but his only opening is the door.

House Trap Plan

"The Miscellaneous classification consists of: in the case of Nuthatches, most of them were caught in a Graves tree trap; other birds, of course, are caught in this trap also, notably Downy Woodpeckers. The Miscellaneous section includes birds banded when people call up and tell me that they have a bird in their house, or in a street drain, and a few nestlings, including 11 Herring Gulls.

I use for bait a mixture of bird seed and chick feed. I add sunflower seed for special occasions to trap Blue-Jays, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Cardinals and Purple Finches, but I have terrible gray squirrel trouble! I use suet of course in the Graves tree trap and sometimes mix peanut butter and suet, particularly in winter. I always add a few pieces of bread both for visibility and because many different kinds of birds seem to go for it. I add berries in season. Dogwood berries particularly are colorful and keep for a long while. The Hermit Thrushes like barberry bush berries.

I have tried every sort of location and find that if the traps are placed near shrubbery with the openings placed away from the shrubbery, I get the best results. This is not necessary, however, with the winter residents, particularly when snow is on the ground. I use water as a lure in the House Trap and in the Gill Sparrow Trap with considerable success. Robins and Warblers are particularly attracted by the water dripping into the pans.

I keep a couple of traps on shelves 7 or 8 feet from the ground but have had only minor success with them. One top opening trap is always on a stump about two feet off the ground near the bird bath. This seems moderately successful."

"Note: During period house trap was in operation, Jan. 1 to July 31, 1951, 339 of 1473 birds trapped were taken in house trap (22.3%)."

Note: Complete trap record will be shown in a future issue.

YOU COULD MAKE YOUR OWN TRAPS

BUT WE CAN DO IT FOR YOU AT LOWER COSTS!

ONE-CELL TRIP-STEP TRAP A good sturdy portable little job of all metal construction with galvanized floor and sliding take-out door. Our most popular model for feeding shelf or on the ground. Size 6 x 6 x 8"

ONE-CELL TOP-OPENING TRAP A good bush trap to be set in shrubbery or on a tree. Spring operated and all metal construction. Size 6 x 6 x 8".

Each of these traps \$2.00 plus 25¢ postage and packing. Canadian banders add \$1.00 per trap to cover shipping and other charges. All traps available within 24 hours of receipt of order. Specify 1/2 or 1/4 wire mesh as desired..

GATHERING CAGE A safe all-metal gathering cage with 100 uses. Size 4 x 5 x 8 with sliding door. \$1.00 postpaid in USA.

Large traps of several designs available. For information write to: Geoffrey Gill, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, L. I., N. Y.

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