

Poocetes gramineus confinis. Western Vesper Sparrow. The only place I saw vesper sparrows was at El Oro. A very few were seen there, the first week of February, 1924, when three were secured, one on the 2nd and two on the 4th. These proved to be *P. g. confinis* rather than *P. g. affinis*, which latter was recorded by Brewster.

Piranga rubra cooperi. Cooper Tanager. A single immature male was seen and taken at San Jose del Cabo February 23, 1923.

Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni. Olive-backed Thrush. Thrushes were fairly common in the fall at Todos Santos, but at La Paz none was seen with the exception of one of this species taken on October 11, 1924.

Hylocichla guttata slevini. Monterey Hermit Thrush. Quite common in the fall and spring in various parts. Several taken.—CHESTER C. LAMB, *Los Angeles, California, March 7, 1925.*

WITH THE BIRD BANDERS

Under the Direction of J. Eugene Law, Altadena, California

A Banding Outfit and Some Traps.—As well as the banding outfit, two traps are given here which bird banders may find worth experimenting with. I say experimenting with, because, however well a trap may suit the person who made it, or the species of bird for which it was intended, it may still prove worthless to some other bander using it under different conditions.

It is my belief that position of the trap plus camouflage and the habits of the birds

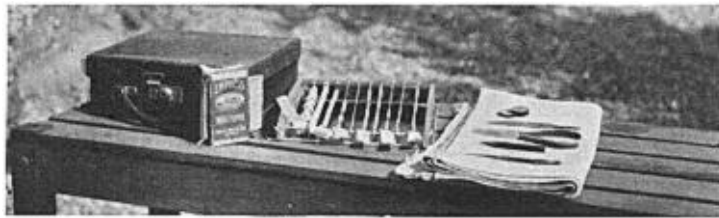


Fig. 33. BANDING OUTFIT. A NOTE BOOK SHOULD BE ADDED.

it is desired to catch, are really the first points to be considered, after which the most suitable trap for the purpose might be selected from the many types described from time to time in the various banding papers. I live in the woods, and although my land runs down to the sea, birds are not overly plentiful; and they are extremely shy, so that when I tried cage traps and some others that might be called city traps, they failed me with most species.

After experimenting with a good many, I found them, as traps, for the most part, ideal, but few suited the conditions prevailing here. I then started to alter them or discard them entirely, and after watching the birds as they approached them, and when in them, I was finally able to get what appeared to suit the birds best, or frightened them least.

Those given here have been well tried. A third, a funnel trap, has already been referred to in these columns.

The Banding Outfit.—For convenience I made up the outfit here shown in figure 33. When packing the box, the larger band-holder is made to fit snugly in the bottom, where it should remain even when in use. Over this lies a folded piece of canvas, about two feet square, useful for covering traps or collecting boxes when birds are wild. Many other uses are found for it, especially in wet weather. It also keeps the bands from rattling when the box is being carried. Above these again lies a paste-board box in which are kept the tools: pliers, knife, three-cornered file, pocket lens, note-book, etc.