BULLETIN

OF THE

NORTHEASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

A MODIFIED CHARDONNERET TRAP

BY RICHARD B. HARDING

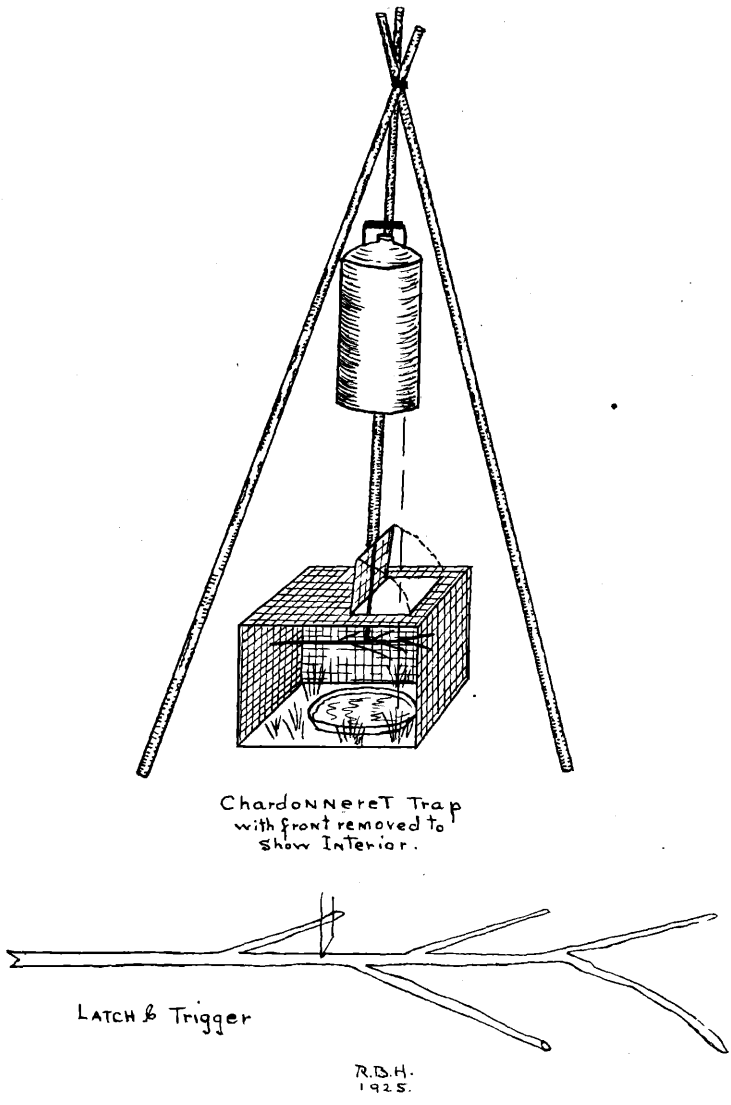
EXPERIMENTS with the Cohasset Warbler trap used in conjunction with dripping water were so successful that further experiments are being conducted by Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Whittle and the writer, this time substituting the Chardonneret trap described in "Bird Banding Notes" No. 10 but with some slight modifications in construction and design.

The theory on which the Cohasset Warbler trap was worked out was the use of an agitated water bath in conjunction with a trap which permitted a bird to enter through the top. Observation led the writer to believe that the sloping sides of the funnel were objectionable to certain of the Warblers that approached the trap and that, were the opening more accessible, these birds would enter more readily.

The Chardonneret Trap, "Bird Banding Notes" No. 10, seems to meet the requirements of just such a trap. An early model, however, was too large and too dangerous. Later models eliminated these objections and are proving so satisfactory that it has been deemed advisable to describe this trap in detail. The trap is essentially the same as described in "Bird Banding Notes" No. 10 except as to details, and no originality is claimed.

The Chardonneret traps now used by the writer measure 18″ x 18″ x 18″ high and are made by taking a piece of ½ ″ mesh,[1] 20-gauge cellar-window wire, 72″ long x 18″ wide. This is then folded to make the four sides, 18″ x 18″, and laced with fine copper wire. Another piece, 18″ x 18″, is then laced to the top, care being taken to leave no rough edges on the inside. A hole 9″ x 6″ is cut out of the top 3″ from one edge. A door 10″ x 7″ of the same mesh is hinged on the inside edge of this opening. A pine stick, with a thin wedge-shaped lower end, is wired (see figure) to the door, and the lower end engages notches cut in the trigger stick when trap is set. Two convenient taking doors are made, one near the top and one near the bottom. The traps made by the writer have no reinforce-

[1] No. 3 galvanized wire cloth is equally suitable.



DETAILS OF MODIFIED CHARDONNERET TRAP

ment, but if commercially made, the bottom and edges of the taking doors might well be reinforced with about a 12-gauge galvanized iron wire. One hundred linear inches of this wire cloth, costing approvimately one dollar, are sufficient to make the trap.

For the tripping mechanism reference is made to "Bird Banding Notes" No. 10 and to a line drawing on the opposite page. The writer has found that a small twig, composed of several forks, makes a satisfactory perch and reduces the chance of a bird entering the trap without alighting on the trigger.

The use of the trap is simple. A bird bath some 10 to 12 inches in diameter is placed on the ground in the trap. A tripod composed of bean-poles, seven or eight feet long, is erected over the trap, to which is suspended a water-can. The writer uses a five-gallon kerosene-can which has a faucet by means of which the drip can be regulated. Mr. R. H. Howland who apparently developed the use of dripping water, makes a small hole in the can by means of a nail into which is inserted a peg. By twisting and wiggling this peg the drip can be regulated. Mrs. C. L. Whittle uses a piece of rubber tubing, 3/16" in diameter, purchasable at any drug-store, with a small clasp, which adjusts the water-supply and siphons it at the rate of 60 drops per minute into the bath.[1]

It is obvious that the trap should be located in or near suitable foliage frequented by Warblers and should be so placed that some convenient lighting perch or twig is directly in front of and somewhat higher than the opening in the trap.

NOTES ON MEASUREMENTS OF BANDED BIRDS

BY GLEN D. CHAMBERLAIN

THE writer hopes that the amount of interest in measurements of live birds will serve as an excuse for publishing the preliminary data contained in this article. An outline of my operations will be necessary before the results become fully clear to the reader.

[1] For adjusting the water-flow a wooden clothes-pin, closed by a spring, is found satisfactory. The water-supply is kept in a bucket or an earthen-ware container placed on a block of wood, some fifteen inches high, located close beside the trap. Thirty inches of rubber tubing are sufficient to meet requirements. For the bath a flower-pot saucer is used. The cover to a pickle-jar may be substituted. There should be a space about the bath on the ground for the birds. No food is used in the trap. Purple Finches, Song Sparrows, Chebecs, and even the Kingbird, are readily captured. The cost of the trap itself, including the tubing, is about one dollar and twenty cents.