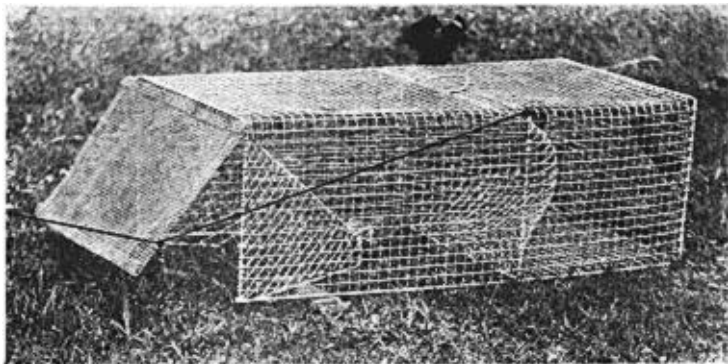


began to be too small to contain all four nestlings. The young Cowbird, on account of its greater weight, occupied the lower position in the nest. When the adults arrived with food, all four nestlings raised themselves as high as possible to receive it. The smallest Song Sparrow, being above its Cowbird nestmate, for several days experienced great difficulty in maintaining its place, and finally was forced over the edge by the rising up of the young Cowbird. Though replaced in the nest, it was missing the following day. The nest space remaining then proved sufficient for the rearing of the two Song Sparrow nestlings and the Cowbird nestling. There seemed to be no movements of the Cowbird nestling intended to eject the Song Sparrow nestlings. The movements of the Cowbird resulting in the ejection of its nestmate apparently were incidental to the act of feeding.

The cover picture is of a very young Cowbird recently out of the nest.—
E. C. HOFFMAN, Lakewood, Ohio.

Experimental Sparrow-Type Trap with Door Attachment.—Every bird-bander occasionally feels that an opportunity for securing valuable returns of banded birds is lost when certain of these become accustomed to passing in and out of the common type of sparrow trap.

For the purpose of capturing trap-wise birds, the attachment shown below has been devised. It has been in use several months and has been the means of providing records of individual birds which could not otherwise have been obtained. The auxiliary door, made of quarter-inch mesh hardware cloth (the trap itself is better made of the same mesh), is fastened to the top of the trap by four rings, to allow free movement. The material for the door is folded over an inch on all sides to avoid sharp edges, and is used wide enough to extend half an inch from each side of the trap. Closing of the door when tension on the pull-string or wire is released, is made certain by an elastic cord attached to the door and to the middle of the trap. The tension on this cord is just sufficient to close the door. No trip stick is required. When a trap-wise bird enters, the operator, who preferably is stationed out of the bird's vision, releases the tension



PULL-STRING SPARROW TRAP

on the pull-string or wire. On finding the usual exit closed, the bird immediately uses the only other exit to the second compartment of the trap. Resetting is done simply by tightening the pull-string. Trapping is limited to the particular birds desired and is done repeatedly without approaching the trap.

There are no sharp pointed wires, the ends of all wires being bent into a circle. The entrances are made large enough for larger birds such as Blue Jays, Starlings, and Robins. The larger entrance seems to have no effect on the trapping of the smaller birds.—E. C. HOFFMAN, Lakewood, Ohio.

The comparative reaction of different animals to the movement of the trap door produced by a slight oscillation of the pull string is an interesting study in itself. At this station, fox squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits and undesired birds have been trained by this means to avoid this particular trap, though they continue to feed at the other traps. Dogs and cats usually stay away entirely after receiving several sharp blows from the door. It is apparent that the size of the device may be increased for the capture of any bird or animal. A bait of small pieces of watermelon besides attracting certain birds resulted in the capture of several interesting butterflies.

Except for the larger entrances and the absence of all sharp or blunt pointed wires the design of the trap is that illustrated in U. S. Dept. Agr. Miscell. Circular No. 18.—E. C. HOFFMAN, 1041 Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

The Case of Tree Sparrow No. A126302.—I found a Tree Sparrow, No. A126302, in a four-door trap, late one moonlight evening during January 1929. It must have got in at dusk, as it was not there at four and this was January 23d. Apparently a cat had moved the trap, and, in trying to escape, the bird cut a gash across its head from bill to crown, and a dig at the end of the bill. I treated this wound with carbolated petrolatum and banded the bird. It fluttered to the ground, uncertain in the moonlight, and then with an effort flew into a holly at the front of the house. Next day it repeated, and the wound was clean, but the skull was bare to the bone. I treated the bird several times during the next week, during which it repeated twenty-two times. It repeated less frequently as the wound healed which became a greenish-yellow bald spot. On the 4th of February gray skin began to creep over it, and on the sixth covered nearly the whole wound. On the 9th quills began to appear. By the 16th the quills covered the gray, and chestnut feathers started to show. On the 24th there were only a few silver quill-tips uncovered, and the hole at the bill, open till then, seemed filling. By the 2d of March we could no longer recognize the bird without consulting the band.—HILDEGARDE C. THORP, Amherst, Massachusetts.

A Slate-colored Junco Recovery.—Mrs. Joseph S. Chamberlain, of Amherst, Massachusetts, reports that the Biological Survey sends word that Slate-colored Junco No. 184535, banded by her April 4, 1926, was killed by a cat at LeQuille, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia on April 22, 1929. This is an instructive record of the sort we are particularly desirous of securing.

Purple Finch Recoveries.—On April 20, 1929, at my banding station in Cohasset, Massachusetts, I recovered a male Purple Finch, No. A54161, and two days afterwards I recovered a female of this species, No. A54159,