ducks go beyond the limits of their regional group, and even these are presumably compensated by similar movements from other regions. Vagrancy is therefore a minor consideration in local or regional management, which must deal with the main body of a population rather than its erratic offshoots.

Aside from vagrancy, these Black Ducks banded in summer show the same patterns of recovery northward, southward, and on the Cape itself, as all Cape-banded Blacks. This is certainly important. A sample of six hundred ducks is too small by itself to serve as the basis for any sweeping conclusions, but when it is as compact as the one in hand, and proves on analysis to show much the same trends as a larger sample previously analyzed, each set of findings reinforces the other.

In the present case, the recoveries from these summer-banded ducks are the third and final indication that on Cape Cod we are dealing with a regional maritime population of Black Ducks having its principal affiliations to the northeast in Canada.

(To Be Concluded)

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TWO NATIVE BIRD TRAPS OF PANAMA

By MICHAEL J. TAKOS

Two kinds of traps are frequently used for capturing small birds in the Republic of Panama. Honey creepers, finches, tanagers, parakeets, and some members of the oriole family are taken in these devices for sale as cage birds. The most common type, called the *tapa* (meaning lid or cover), is found in practically every village throughout the Isthmus. The *churuco* (stirrup) is used principally by the natives of Colon Province, although it is known, at least by name, in other regions. Both models are light, compact, simple to operate, and could be modified very easily for use at bird-banding stations in the United States.

The *churuco* and *tapa* are constructed from the wood of a species of palm *(Bactris minor* Jacq.), called *caña brava* (wild cane) in the Republic, and no metal fasteners are employed. The heavy members of the traps, such as the framework, are fashioned from sections of cane poles about 1¼ inches in diameter. These pieces are lap-jointed at all corners and the members pinned together with small dowels. An arrangement of parallel bars, set perpendicular to the framework, encloses the cage. The bars are cut from sections of cane and placed into holes bored through the heavy frame members. Each bar is about

1/10 of an inch in diameter and they are spaced at approximately ½ inch intervals. The over-all dimensions of the traps may vary with the size of the birds to be captured, however, they are usually built 8 inches high, 11 inches wide, and 16½ inches long.

The *tapa* and *churuco* are divided into an upper and a lower compartment by a series of bars. Small doors are provided through the walls of the traps so that birds can be removed from these chambers. The lower compartment always houses a bait bird, while the upper contains the capturing mechanism. The cageling is usually a female of the species desired and serves to lure the wild males into the trap. Never-

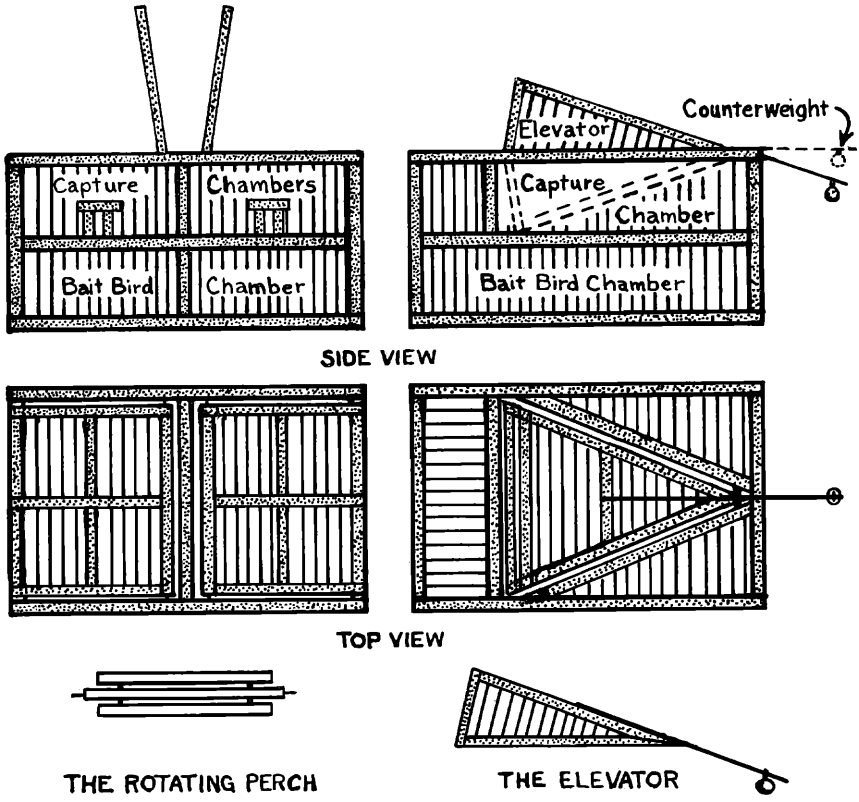

Fig. 1 Scale drawings of the *tapa* and *churuco* showing details of construction.

theless, bits of banana or other fruits are always used as bait in addition to the caged bird. The traps are hung among the branches of trees near banana plantations or other localities where fruit is plentiful. Trapping is usually done by small boys who visit the traps to remove the newly captured individuals and to feed and water the bait bird.

THE TAPA

The upper half of the *tapa* is divided into two capture compartments which are open at the top. These openings are closed by doors that swing on pins set near the top center of the trap. The doors are always

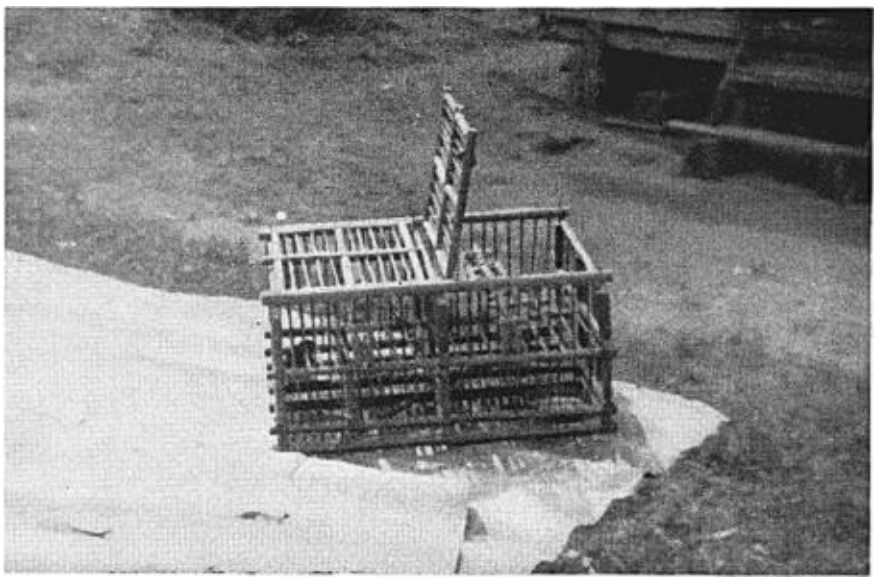

FIG. 2 The *tapa* with one compartment in the set position.

weighted with small stones or bits of metal to make them close rapidly. The capturing mechanism depends on a rotating perch device. A piece of cane, which turns on pins running through the sides of the compartment, serves as the axle of the perch. Two pieces of cane are fastened parallel to the axle in outrigger fashion, and are so balanced that the slightest weight on either outrigger will rotate the entire structure. When the trap is set, a sliver of cane props open the door; the lower end of the prop rests on the axle of the perch. A bird alighting on either outrigger will rotate the perch, thus sliding the prop from its resting place on the axle and allowing the door to close. One bird can be captured in each compartment before the trap must be reset. (figures 1 and 2).

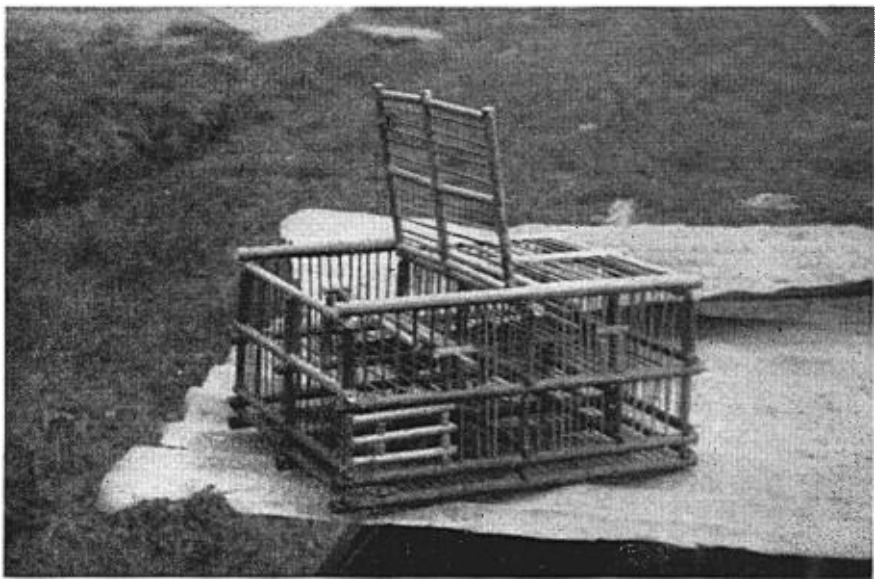

FIG. 3 The *tapa* showing details of door giving access to the bait bird chamber.

THE CHURUCO

Because of its self setting mechanism, the *churuco* is a more complicated trap. It consists of three parts; a bait bird chamber, the capture compartment, and the active capturing element, here called the "elevator." This element is built in the form of a hollow, elongated pyramid which is open at the base. The pyramid reclines on one side at the top of the trap, the latter being fashioned so that the bottom of the elevator closes the capture chamber. The entire device swings on a pin set through the pyramid near its apex and is supported by the roof of the trap. Therefore, the elevator can swing an arc either by dropping until the lower edge of the base touches the floor of the capture room or by rising until the lower side of the pyramid is flush with the top of the trap. A counterweight is attached to an arm extending from the elevator and keeps it in balance at the last mentioned position. This balance is upset when a bird enters the open base of the elevator, and the added weight causes the device to swing down into the capture compartment. The bird eventually finds its way into the capture room by squeezing through a space appearing between the wall of the chamber and the base of the pyramid. Thus relieved of the extra weight, the elevator is lifted by the counterweight to its original position and the trap is ready for the next visitor. There are small projections jutting

from the lower edge of the base of the pyramid in order to keep the momentum from lifting the elevator out of the trap. It is not at all unusual to take as many as seven birds in one afternoon with this trap. (See figure 1.)

A modified kind of *tapa* or *churuco* could be made by using heavy gauge wire for the framework and covering it with screening. The framework would probably be unnecessary if ½ inch mesh, zinc-coated screening were used. Canaries might be utilized as bait birds, but this feature of the traps could easily be dispensed with. Most bird-banding enthusiasts can probably think of a number of ways to change the traps to adapt them to local conditions. It is hoped that these ingenious devices may find some place among the capturing equipment of bird-banding stations.

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GENERAL NOTES

Longevity record for the Common Tern.—June 24th, 1946, Common Tern carrying band number 550611 was trapped on a nest at Tern Island, Chatham, Cape Cod, Mass. Since this bird was an adult when banded by Charles B. Floyd at Tern Island, July 4th, 1927, it is at least twenty years old, possibly more. Eighteen years was our preceding record.—O. L. AUSTIN, Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Massachusetts.

The Return of Young Robins to their Birthplaces.—Donald S. Farner's article: "The Return of Robins to their Birthplaces," BIRD-BANDING 16: 81-99, July, 1945, presents a valuable discussion of the tendency of young Robins and other passerine birds to return to their birthplaces for future breeding. Dr. Farner points out that it has not been determined whether this tendency is associated with the birthplace itself or actually with the last place occupied prior to migration. He cites Nice and Hickey as presenting some evidence that the latter hypothesis is valid.

In 1930, I was attending the Winnwood School, Lake Grove, Long Island, New York, which is three or four miles north of Lake Ronkonkoma and about fifty miles east of New York City. One of my teachers found a pair of juvenile Robins *(Turdus m. migratorius)* on the ground, and asked me to try to raise them to prevent cats from killing them. One of the birds died that evening, but the other, a male, grew healthily. He had the freedom of my room, and was able to fly about in it by the end of May. He was completely tame, so much so that when I tried to release him outdoors he would not fly away, but returned to my shoulder. I decided to keep him to show to my mother, and in June we carried him in a cage to my home in Passaic, New Jersey, fourteen miles west of New York City. There I had him banded by a neighbor, and released him in our garden. At first, he would return to the house to be fed, hammering on the windows to attract notice; but in a few weeks he learned to forage for himself. He always flew to my shoulder when he saw me during the summer, but in September he disappeared, doubtless migrating south with the other Robins.

The next spring, I saw him frequently in Passaic, and on a few occasions he came to me and let me pick him up, although he was less tame than he had been.