When a bird has to be caught the lid of its nesting box is replaced by the modified one. After the bird has entered its nest the coil is powered at a distance. Some of our nesting boxes have hinged lids. They simply were opened and covered with the trap lid. Tits did not seem frightened by this modification in the surroundings of their nest.—André A. Dhondt (1) & E. J. Van Outryve (2).

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(2) Laboratory of Animal Physiology (Prof. Dr. G. Van Grembergen) Ghent State University, Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000-Ghent (Belgium).

Increase of fall Traill's Flycatchers in southern Florida.—Until October 21, 1967, when I took a Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) at my banding station one mile north of Homestead, Florida, this species had been considered to be absent as a transient in peninsular Florida (*Bird-Banding*, January 1970, **41** (1): 40). In fall of 1968 John C. Ogden collected one 13 miles southwest of Homestead, in Everglades National Park. In 1969 I banded, and released from my station, three more (two adult, one HY).

In 1970, between September 24-October 19, I netted 27 *traillii*. Four were taken September 24, the last three October 14, 16, 19. Aged by wingbar color, two were unknown, 14 adult, 11 HY. Four HY had incomplete ossification. Wing measurements ranged from 64-72; weights from 119-149; fat content from 0-3, two birds having 3 (on a scale of 3). Two birds repeated, one the following day, one three days following. Each bird was examined for ossification, emargination of 6th primary, comparative lengths of 5th to 10th primary, 6th to 10th, 6th to wingtip; for length of tarsus, tail and wing tip; for mouth color, length and width of bill from nostril. Occasional corroborations were made by Dr. Wm. B. Robertson, Jr., and by John C. Ogden. One bird taken dead is in the reference collection of Everglades National Park.—Erma J. Fisk, 17101 SW 284th St., Homestead, Fla., 33030.

An automatic trap for use on bird nesting boxes.—During the 1930s I made relatively extensive use of traps for capturing birds in nesting boxes and in this program developed and tested several types of automatic traps. One of these was much like the one described by Dehaven and Guarino (*Bird-Banding* **40**: 48-50).

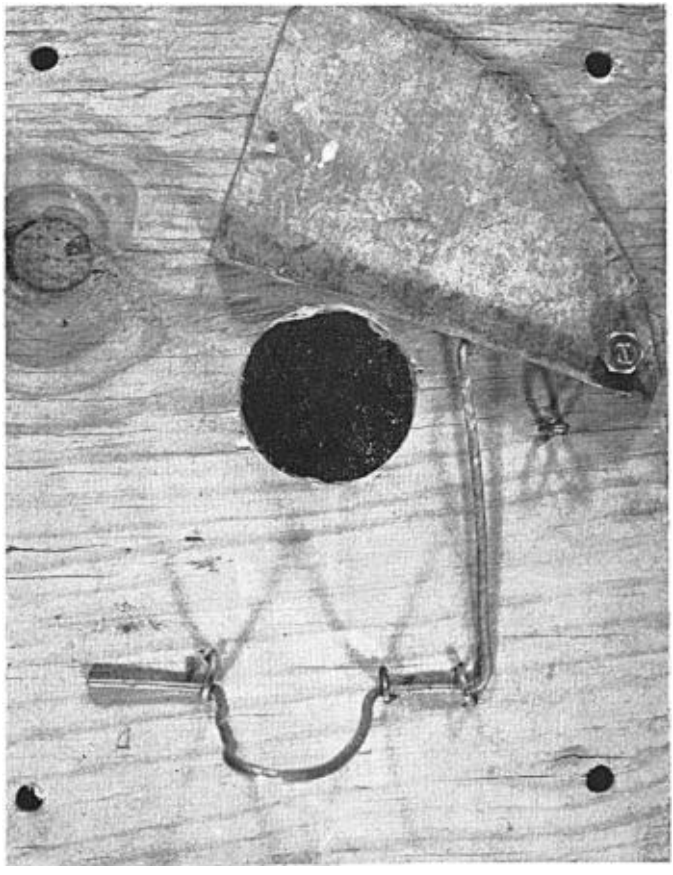
Another trap which I later developed proved more simple to construct and trouble free to operate. This consisted only of a vertical shutter made of sheet metal and a release treadle made of wire, with the two attached to a square of plywood (Fig. 1). This removable unit was attached to the inside of nesting boxes with the large hole through the plywood matching the entrance hole in the front of the nesting boxes. Attachment was made with two small screws given several turns into the wood of the front of the boxes. Four small holes were drilled through the detachable plywood square to increase the chance that there would always be two holes which would miss possible knots in the wood of the fronts of the boxes.

The shutter turned up and down on a bolt inserted through its one end and through the plywood square so that it closed the hole through the plywood square and the entrance hole of the box when in the down position. The bolt was first inserted through the plywood and made firm by tightening a nut against the plywood. This nut also served to hold the shutter about one-eighth inch from the plywood. A second nut was backed off from the shutter against a third or jam nut. Thus the shutter was loosely held on the bolt, and it always dropped freely when released from its upper position.

The vertical arm of the treadle was long enough that the birds were well inside of the box before perching on the horizontal arm which tripped the shutter. The vertical arm engaged the shutter near its point of attachment, and the slight weight of the shutter was thus accentuated by lever action, helping to hold the treadle in the set position. Sensitivity of the shutter release was adjusted by appropriate bending of the in-turned wire at the upper end of the treadle or of the flange at the bottom of the shutter.

Sometimes the shutters and shutter release wires were attached directly to the inside of the fronts of the nesting boxes without using the plywood squares. When it was desired to allow the birds to nest in the boxes, a small screw was placed in the fronts of the boxes beneath the shutter so that the shutter was held

Fig. 1 Trap unit for attachment to nesting boxes



in the upper position and the entrance to the nesting box was kept open. To trap the nesting birds, the screw was removed and the treadle placed in the set position.

I never used these traps to capture House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) or other birds smaller than House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), but I do not doubt that the shutter release setting can be made sensitive enough to trap such birds. However, for trapping House Wrens the traps would be most satisfactory when used before nesting has started as these birds normally fill their nesting cavities with nesting material all of the way up to the cavity entrance. In most nesting boxes, the traps are readily mounted well above the nests of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*), for example. With the entire trap being on the inside of the nesting box, it is protected from being prematurely tripped by birds striking it or alighting on its shutter, and it can be set for an easy release.

In addition to using these traps for capturing birds nesting in the boxes, I often operated them continuously throughout entire nesting seasons so that visiting birds had no opportunity to nest in the boxes. I thus captured 20-25 birds in single boxes at the same locations during single nesting seasons.—Paul A. Stewart, Entomology Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Oxford, North Carolina 27565.