

CHIRPS ON THE EDITOR'S DESK

Some banders report that hawks are causing trouble at their banding stations this winter. Since all banders dislike to shoot hawks they would appreciate some hints on how to discourage their continual presence. The experience of being captured and banded may discourage the hawks from a return visit to the station; but the problem is to catch the hawks. Mrs. McDougall of Port Credit, Ontario, for example has several Verbaill Traps set for hawks at her station but has been unsuccessful in capturing any of the many hawks about her place. Dick Fischer reports that his Mexico trip was a great success. Not only did he add over a hundred species to his life-list but he also had the opportunity to study families of birds with which he was formerly familiar only through specimens. He promises a full report later on.

Alvah Sanborn had evening grosbeaks drift into his station at the Pleasant Valley Bird Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass. around the first of December. Ether Heacock, Wyncote, Pa. reports that she caught a dickcissel on November 29, 1948 and another on January 8, 1949. Mr. Mason of Northampton, Mass. caught one on October 23, 1948 (Nov., 1948, Vol. 11, No. 11, p. 63). Did any other banders band any of these birds this winter? Dr. Paul H. Fluck writes that he has thirty-five mourning doves wintering around his station. To date he has managed to band eight of them. These were captured in a new portable house trap built in three by six foot sections which he can assemble in fifteen minutes and disassemble in just as little time. Altogether this interesting trap measures six by nine by six feet and is constructed out of three-quarter inch hardware cloth and two by twos.

Also the good doctor along with Kelvin Stahl of Trenton, N.J. paid Jeff Gill a visit. "Jeff", Dr. Fluck says, "has more traps per yard than any other bander I have ever visited. And some of those traps are really ingenious."

Next month: You don't want to miss the story about General Philip Sheridan, who used a bird trap with a Fabian entrance at a frontier army post, in 1854, by Lewis H. Barnes and Arthur H. Fast. Or Dr. Fluck's experiences with a red-tailed hawk. Read these in the February issue.

ROBIN RECOVERIES

From robins banded by Daniel Smiley, Jr.
at Mohonk Lake, New York

<u>Date Recovered</u>	<u>Place Recovered</u>	<u>Date Banded</u>
March 5, 1931	Bains, La. (Found dead)	March 27, 1929
February 13, 1932	Frostproof, Fla. (Caught eating strawberries)	June 28, 1929 (Juv.)
January 30, 1933	Gainesville, Fla.	July 9, 1932 (Im.)
March 25, 1935	Clinton, S.C.	August 7, 1931 (Im.)