

## HAWKS AT A BANDING STATION

Mrs. Lucie McDougall: Here is an interesting incident that happened the day of our Xmas census. Jim Baillie of the Royal Ontario Museum had asked me to take a census here in Toronto township. It was a blustry day, snowing like mad, and toward the afternoon I took a bit of the count from my dining room window. There were many more birds in my garden than for a mile about. Downies, a flicker, nuthatches, chickadees, tree sparrows, juncos, cardinals, blue jays, goldfinch, English-sparrows and a Cooper's hawk. About three o'clock I looked at my three-cell Potter trap and saw that I had trapped a junco; but as I was having a cup of coffee, I let it stay there for the time being. The yard was filled with at least a hundred birds. In a second they all disappeared, and as I looked over at the junco, he "froze." In another second down swooped a young male Cooper's hawk and tried desperately to tear through the wire to get the junco. Mr. McDougall had to shoot the hawk as he had been bothering my birds here for several days. We sent him to the museum.

The next morning about nine-thirty, the yard was again full of birds, cardinals and blue jays feeding together, when five beautiful male evening grosbeaks lit in one of our apple trees. In the next instant every bird in the garden disappeared and by twelve noon there was still not a bird. I went out and looked everywhere about the house. There was no sign of the hawk but when I passed the hedge, I could hear the cardinals hidden in there. And even though I passed close-by, I did not flush them. As I walked further back toward our creek-- there is a fine bit of bush back there-- a male goshawk flew up into the trees at the back. The next day I had not a bird in the garden and I saw a female Cooper's capture a starling near the creek. The next day I witnessed a male sparrow hawk take a chickadee off my dining room window-feeder. Xmas day and the following two days, there was not a sign of a hawk anywhere even though the traps were full of birds,--until four o'clock of the last day when a female Cooper's swooped down atop of the hedge and started digging down to get a bird.

Maurice G. Street: Reading through several of your recent issues I note with particular interest two cases where small hawks entered traps to capture small birds. Last spring I had a startling experience but here is the story--

On April 18 I was kneeling beside a two-funnel sparrow trap removing common redpolls and banding them one by one when I was suddenly interrupted by a whirl of wings. Looking up quickly, I expected to see a hawk either making off or perching in some nearby tree. But seeing nothing I glanced down at the trap, which still contained a half a dozen redpolls, and there the hawk was trying to get through the top. Surprised and as excited as I was, I simply closed my hand over it, banded and released it. It was a female sparrow hawk in perfect condition, yet probably very hungry, for the ground had long been covered with 18 inches of snow.

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