

1946. It is hoped that in the future issues will be at least quarterly. Co-operators are urged to contribute to future issues. Notes on traps, baits, and techniques will be especially welcomed; also suggestions, comments and criticisms pertaining both to this publication and the operations of the banding office are invited."

Now, evidently, the rosy wishes of the F & W L editor of NOTES as to the future of NOTES have more or less completely paled. Due to what failure of plans or finances we know not of. But closer (and more scientific) touch with the Service itself is something we banders might look forward to! What have you to say on this matter?

Merrill Wood's contribution in April EBBANUS as to that experiment about painting traps done at Penn. Agri. Experiment Station, gives us all a definite help: *Our traps should be painted black.* (Unless there was something unscientific involved in the test, which seems doubtful.)

And, what a time Fischer and the Cofeys had themselves in Mexico! We'd like to see a lot of Fischer's photos. New NUSED has an idea (he has yet to try it out!) Take a glass "thistle-tube" with stem some 10" long. Heat and bend tube so that bend acts as a hook to hang the bowl in position from which Hummers can sip honey-water. After birds have learned to feed from this, encase the tube in a top-enter trap (at about former height). Trap should be watched almost constantly.

FLAKES FROM DRIFTS PILED ON
NEW EDITOR'S DESK ALREADY!

Mrs. Dumont (Pequannock, N. J.) banded in 1949 (*calendar year?*) 477 of 45 species. 31 Returns, 0 Recoveries. "First Purple Martin banded in 16 years." (Why was that?) *Pine Warblers* 23! Tell us how you trap these!

Pres. Groskin's many Returns since Oct. 1945 will be listed next issue.

Alvah Sanborn (Lenox, Mass.) writes: "Just trapped Blue Jay banded by George Wallace 9½ yrs. ago; a Hairy W'pecker banded 10 yrs. ago. He was here at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary before I was." (Letter of March 21, 1949)

"Greatly elongated bill found on Starling caught in banding trap. Maxilla had sustained dorsal crushing injury; showed completely healed scar about midpoint. Also displacement about 24 degrees to left. Tips of bill did not meet; therefore could not receive usual wear. A normal bill grows at tip, but without this constant wear this bill became much prolonged; mandible measuring 36 mm instead of normal maximum 25. Maxilla measured about 28 mm. The nares, being proximal to the injury, were not involved. Bird could not eat normally; did not however show any sign of emaciation. . . ." writes H. B. Wood (What do you guess it fed on, Harold?) He says he banded and released the bird.

C. Brooks Worth: "Was interested reading Smiley's Robin recoveries (p. 4, NUS for Jan. '49). His second record, from Frostproof, Fla., says "Caught eating strawberries". Having lived near strawberry center of Fla. over a year, I know something of how such robins are "caught"—generally by means of a shot-

gun with wide scatter-pattern; birds are 'caught' by pellets of lead." Game Wardens, he says, are stumped by this robin-killing, as growers feel they must protect their brief crop. . . .

Selah Lester (E. Hampton, L. I.) "Had a little over 2000 birds for the year." (meaning calendar yr. 1948???) "Bird found dead 10/18/48, Huntington, L. I. 39-255125 was Towhee banded by me 9/29/48. (Mr. Gill had inquired in EBBANUS.)

Irl Rogers (Modesto, Cal.) on May 2, '48 banded just 500 Cedar Waxwings! ("Could have banded many more, but sick and tired"). Uses 3 Modesto Funnel traps. . . Near a raisin factory where refuse dumped out for weeks serves as bait. . . Rogers' season record must be a wonder. Let's have it, Irl, together with any useful data on Waxwings, which few banders band.

When you write in records or other data, specify exactly *the months* covered. This is an editor's prayer to all of you. (N. Y. State demands Reports Feb. 1).

Merrill Wood: "Barn Owl, nestling, banded at State College, Pa. 6/22/48, shot in Eudora, Ark. 11/7/48—about 60 days after it left its tower nest."

SIMPLE SANDPIPER TRAP—It is made of one-inch-mesh poultry wire, one foot wide; fish netting stretched over the top. The compartment is circular, two feet in diameter. A "door" eight inches high and seven wide is made with a T-shaped cut, the ends bent back in the

form of acute angles. Lengths of poultry wire about six feet long are attached to the outside of the trap at the side of the "door". Such a trap takes up little room to transport, and it is very light.—W. M. Davidson, 1504 Bodell St., Orlando, Florida.

The case comes up of those advertised Sparrow Traps (including "Dodson's Famous Sparrow Trap" recently advertised in Nature Mag.) in the hands of the public for "eliminating sparrows"—no species specified! \$16.50 f. o. b. It is likely many native species are caught and killed. Any reader know of such case or cases? Write EBBANUS ED. And why not write Nature Mag. protesting such ads? Above all, why not all of us write to Fish & Wildlife Commission, (Patuxent and/or Washington) inquiring HOW ABOUT IT?—Don't such traps have to be handled by licensed Banders? Member Dr. Paul H. Fluck, M. D., Lambertville, N. J., writes that he has (recently, I assume) caught in sparrow Traps only 11 English, but over 200 Whitethroat Sparrows. Editor shudders to imagine what general public must be doing to a lot of the wild American sparrow tribe with those traps; not distinguishing our wild species from the English breed! Let's all write F & W L Service!

By the way, Editor is broadcasting weekly over WALL (1340 KC) at Middletown, N. Y. 15 minutes. "Meet Mother Nature!" Gets fine chances to plug conservation and preservation. Also plugs "If you find a banded bird, report its band