

IS THIS A BARN OWL AGE RECORD?

by Albert E. Conway

On June 22, 1941, with the assistance of Alan Crawford, Jr., then a prep school student and now an EBBA member and bander in his own right, I banded five nestling Barn Owls in an old barn at Coventryville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Of these, one was subsequently reported killed by an automobile at Cranbury, near Princeton, New Jersey, on March 31, 1945.

With the passage of years, it was assumed that no further recoveries from this brood would be forthcoming, but recently I received word that #37-709444 was found dead at Monterrey, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in November 1955, some 14 years after it was banded as a nestling.

From an examination of the literature available to me, I found no record of a Barn Owl older than ten years. Does any member know of any bird of this species being taken more than fourteen years after banding?--Route 4, Easton, Pennsylvania

RECORDING IN REVERSE

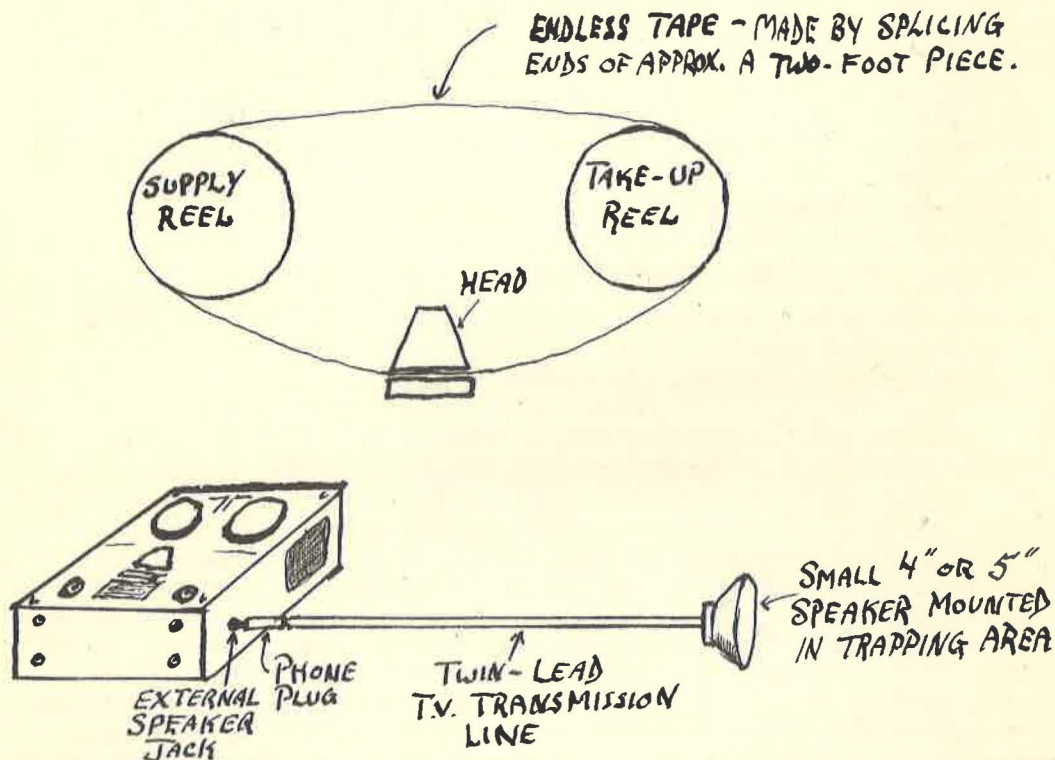
By Edward M. Noll

If you are interested in using sound to attract birds and have a tape recorder available we can tell you a simple way to make an endless-belt arrangement of a particular song or call. A small section of tape is removed from a reel and its ends are scotch-taped together. Just enough tape is used to permit insertion of the tape through the tape heads, take-up reel, and supply reel. When the recorder is turned on the tape should move continuously. You may have to experiment with amount of tape used to obtain a smooth motion. Our own recorder needed a 26 inch length.

A birdsong or other sound can now be recorded on this small section of tape (from bird recording or other source). On playback this sound will be repeated time after time as long as you wish to play it.

Notice also that your tape recorder has a jack labelled external speaker (EXT. SPKR). If you purchase a small speaker and some regular

television lead-in wire you can place speaker in your trap or other suitable location and play what you have recorded on small piece of tape. For example you can record song of a goldfinch and play the call for long periods of time from your trapping area. More is to come later on our successes and failures with sound-in-reverse.



Small speaker and TV wire can be purchased from Lafayette Radio, 100 Sixth Ave., New York, N.Y. The same company has many small electronic control kits available and other gadgets that might lend themselves to banding. A 5 inch speaker can be purchased for less than \$2.00; twin lead television wire for about \$2.00 per hundred feet, and phone plug for about 50¢.