

OPERATION RECOVERY

The results and conclusions of this migration study are now being assembled and we hope to have a report soon. At one station, Island Beach, New Jersey, 599 individuals of 59 species were netted and banded under the leadership of Mrs. Stanley Dickerson. Of the 599 individuals banded, 231 were catbirds and 217 were warblers of 25 species.

Twenty EBBA members, from up to 150 miles away, came to Island Beach to help in the project - some for one day, others for two or three days. A dozen non-banders took part for varying periods as observers.

Banders who aided Mrs. Dickerson at the Island Beach station were: Mr. and Mrs. Harvey W. Brewer, Mrs. Marie Dumont and Gustave Dumont, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schnitzer, John C. Miller, Barbara McDermott, John R. Given, William H. Jenkins, Artie Barber

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schnitzer, John C. Miller, Arthur Barber, William H. Jenkins, John McDermott, your editor and Frank P. Frazier, Jr., Mrs. James M. Shand, Mrs. Irving H. Worden, Mrs. Ernest Dietze, Jr., and Bennett W. Matlack and Stanley S. Dickerson.

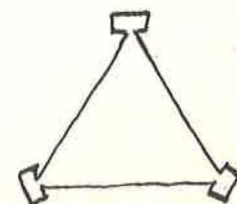
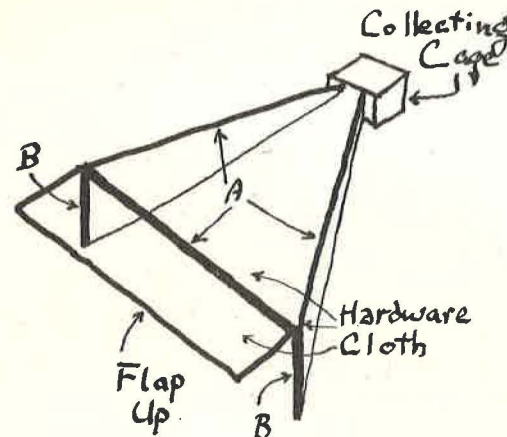
ENGLISH SPARROW EXCURSIONS

By Edward M. Noll

The suburban bander soon learns that his feed and station offer the ideal inducement for colonization by English sparrows. In time the settlement becomes a sparrow metropolis of food-consuming dynamos who know all about bird trapping, remaining clear of all set traps and active funnels. Once the "all clear" sounds they swarm about catching seeds as you throw them from the pan. We use a wild-seed mix of small seeds because of its ability to attract mourning doves and other wild-seed feeders. The English sparrows consider it a delicacy.

We are inclined to overfeed and continually try to find the most attractive food for each type of bird. Our birds are feeding well for longer periods of time than they are being encouraged to enter traps. It is this technique, along with a large house trap, that has helped us band better than 2300 birds in about nine months in a dog-barking, neighbor-shouting, screen-door slamming, power-motor running, airplane-flying, very suburban backyard.

The English sparrow despite its garden insect activity makes our banding more difficult and our feeding more costly. It appears that English sparrows prefer to feed on the ground in compact groups and can be readily caught in a flap trap arrangement. Last fall we built a flap-trap lean-to as shown so we could exile some of the characters to the



Advantage of Triangle:
Bird is always heading
for a collecting cage.

A = 6' x 1 1/2" logs or the equivalent

B = 1-foot supports

country. With this trap we caught and transported more than 150 into the outer regions some 5 to 10 miles away. But the flock is growing again and further excursions will have to be started soon.

The front of the lean-to is about a foot off the ground and it tapers back as one long funnel to the collecting cage at the rear. This is an automatic path for the birds when the flap drops. They funnel themselves despite the fact that a large feeding area is provided.

The triangle trap configuration could well be a successful trap for many birds and a time-saver for the bander. No matter which direction the bird flies he is funneled into a corner and into one of three collecting cages.
