

BANDING OF WOOD WARBLERS AT DEMAREST NEW JERSEY WITH WATER TRAPS

By Harvey W. Brewer

The following chart shows the efficiency of water traps for the banding of wood warblers during a migratory movement. This chart was worked from the records of Patrick K. Garland of Demarest, N.J. Mr. Garland tells me that it would have been possible to have banded more warblers but that on two occasions he ran out of bands and had to leave the traps open. While the chart shows from three to five traps in operation over 80% of the birds were captured by two of the traps.

In addition but not shown on this chart other birds were taken and banded during the time given. Species taken: Myrtle, Parula, Magnolia, Tennessee, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Pine, Nashville, Palm and Cape May Warblers.

No. of Warblers	No. of Species	No. of Traps	Banding Days	Banding Hours	Month & Year
334	9	3	22	88	Oct. 1937
766	11	5	28	112	" 1938
440	5	4	25	100	" 1939

The sketches on the opposite page are of one of the two most productive traps. This trap has three entrances, two crawl spaces and one top funnel drop with two exit doors. The two doors are essential as occasionally a larger bird may not be able to enter the holding compartment and must be removed from the first compartment. A water container is suspended nearby. A pet-cock connected to plastic tubing with the lower end thrust through the mesh to drip slowly about 9 inches above the water reservoir which is sunken in the ground. At the feet of the ramp a hinged guard hangs into the water reservoir to prevent birds in the holding compartment from returning under the ramp to the funnel compartment.

Where the mesh in the ramp is cut away spaces in ramp should be cut one inch apart to allow birds to drop in the holding compartment. On the short tips of wire bent downward to allow the birds entry; on the curved wire ends of the crawl space, and also on the tips at the bottom of the funnel drop cut away the ends so as to leave a bit of the cross wires on each side and drop on a blob of solder to blunt the tips so that the birds will not strike a sharp end of wire.

Leave about 1/4 inch clearance at bottom closing of drop doors. Bottom of trap may be re-inforced by 1/4 gauge wire or one inch square wooden strips. Black paint has been found a successful color for the finished trap. Measurements given do not include the ends of wire which may be bent around adjoining pieces to fasten them together. This trap has done well in a five foot square clearing among white birches and second growth.

GARLAND SPARROW & WARBLER TRAP

