

Mr. Harold D. Mitchell reported on nestings involving Prothonotary and Yellow Warblers near Buffalo, N. Y. A male Prothonotary Warbler which sings a Yellow Warbler song has defended territories from Yellow Warbler males and has fed young in a nest with a Yellow Warbler female three different years. Two of those years, a Yellow Warbler male was observed feeding the young in the same nest.

State College, Penna.

A REPORT FROM MALAYA
By H. Elliott McClure

I just recently returned from a bird-netting trip to one of the highest peaks in Malaya, 6600-foot Mount Brinchang. The daily winds sift clouds over this peak providing moisture which nourishes a fascinating grey-green tropical cloud forest of ericacea shrubs and low trees. The avifauna here is distinctive, many species of which are limited to these high altitudes. Therefore birds banded here could be expected to be local in distribution.

In January I banded Siberian Thrushes and Grey-headed Thrushes which have long since departed for North China and Southern Siberia. But several of the local Babblers and Bulbuls which were marked in January were renetted in June in nets placed in identical places.

Work in these Malayan hill forests is fascinating and reminds one of the cool rolling hills of Virginia or Pennsylvania in June, except that there are no pines and conifers. Besides birds, there are squirrels of several species, many forest rats, civets and an occasional tiger. A tiger crossed the road near one of my nets sometime during the night. They do not constitute any real danger, but accounts of their proximity make good news print and I can see headlines reading, "Tigers are a hazard to bird banders".

The biggest hazard in these forests is your own clumsiness, for a broken ankle miles from town can be a killer. The biggest hazard to the nets are bats. Bats were a rarity in the nets in Japan and I suspect that they are in the U. S., but here nets are quickly riddled by them. Worst offenders are the fruit bats, cute little fellows with a dog-like face from which they get their name, but with sharp teeth that chew enormous holes as they struggle to free themselves. Seven or eight of them in a net in one night can ruin it. Because our netting was far flung over several miles of jungle trails, it was not possible to take them down each evening and replace them in the morning, besides we were interested in the bats as well as the birds.

To remove an entangled bird I prefer to begin with their feet, which usually enter the net last. But with an entangled bat, wrap a handkerchief or cloth around its head so that you won't get bitten and then disentangle the wings first. I find that a pencil is very handy for slipping the threads free from an entangled member or head. The point is not sharp enough to tear tissue but will slip under tight threads.

Nearly 100 birds were marked on this trip and I am looking forward to the future to further studies on this mountain to see what becomes of our marked birds.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaya

A HOME-MADE 12-CELL GATHERING CAGE

By Wilde R. Mellencamp

An inexpensive, disposable gathering cage to hold 12 birds can be made in about two hours from a liquor carton or other heavy cardboard carton with dividers. The cells formed by the dividers should be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across; larger for large hands.

Cut down box and dividers to a depth of about $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. With masking tape, tape outside members of the divider to the wall of the carton and at other joints as needed to hold the cells as square as possible. Across one end tape a sheet of clear plastic: plastic sold for storm windows is a good weight. Hold box as square as possible while attaching this.

The other end will require doors which swing from the top for each cell, with a bottom stop to prevent a bird from pushing the door outward, as illustrated in the diagram below. For bottom stops, cut a dozen pieces of wood about the thickness of a pencil and two inches long: split-up shingles, lathing or even twigs will do. Tape one to the floor of each cell at the edge. Cut doors to fit each cell, loosely, without binding. Be sure the corrugations run horizontal to the base of the box.

Now punch holes through the box and walls of each cell, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in from the edge, using an icepick or nose of banding pliers. Run wire through these holes and through the appropriate corrugation channel in the doors to allow them to swing free. Each door should open easily when you push it with bird in hand and drop back against its stop when your hand is withdrawn.

Finishing touches are a curtain of dark material tapes to drop over the front of the cage, and wire looped through the top for a handle.

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