

SPECIES	HY Indiv/%	AHY Indiv/%	U Indiv/%	Total
Least Flycatcher	21/91+	2/9-	0	23
Black-capped Chickadee	18/69	6/23+	2/8-	26
House Wren	21/91+	2/9-	0	23
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12/54+	0	10/45+	22
Red-eyed Vireo	15/63-	9/37+	0	24
Nashville Warbler	19/76	3/12	3/12	25
Magnolia Warbler	23/92	2/8	0	25
Myrtle Warbler	8/42+	10/53-	1/5+	19
Black-throated Green W.	19/76	4/16	2/8	25
Yellowthroat	40/78+	8/16-	3/6-	51
Purple Finch	6/12+	3/6+	39/81+	48
Rufous-sided Towhee	15/75	5/25	0	20
Field Sparrow	13/57-	8/34+	2/9-	23
White-throated Sparrow	80/75+	5/5-	21/20-	106
Song Sparrow	21/55-	4/11-	13/34+	38
Total birds for station	522/66 2/3%	144/18+%	122/15+%	798

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Friendsville, Pa.

This fall's banding activities at my station were sadly curtailed by the wet weather. Net hours, 1248, compare with last year, but the number of birds banded, 298, was about one-half. The station was operated for 39 days from August to November. Eight nets were used.

It is not surprising that the song sparrow was in the top five most numerous species for three out of the four years which this station has operated. Warblers were not present in any significant number. There were five new species among the 38 banded this fall: winter wren, starling, bobolink, grackle and evening grosbeak. -- Claire Gottschall

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No bander's library should be without a copy of BIRD-BANDING (published by North-Eastern Bird Banding Association), INLAND BIRD BANDING NEWS (published by IBBA), and WESTERN BIRD BANDER (published by WBBA). To join these fine organizations, please write to their treasurers, whose address can be found below:

NEBBA: Mrs. James R. Downs, South Londonderry, Vermont 05155
 IBBA: Merwood Chipman, Route 2, Box 394, Wautoma, Wis. 54982
 WBBA: Ellis R. Jones, P.O. Box 217, Cave Creek, Ariz. 85331

AUTOMATIC DROP-DOOR TRAP

By C. Brooke Worth

This trap may have been shown to me by Mr. John A. Gillespie or Mr. Raymond J. Middleton in 1928. At any rate, I did not invent it myself, though I used steadily from that year onward.

The trap, made of ½-inch hardware cloth and painted flat black, can be designed with a single door or with doors at opposite ends. The latter arrangement makes it harder to stabilize the trap, but has the advantage of letting birds see straight through. Thus, they do not have to enter a cul de sac.

An outstanding feature of this trap is that it has no floor and that the black trip-thread is virtually invisible against the ground. In addition, it is extremely simple to build and can be made in various sizes. I designed one that was put together with string and therefore collapsible, so that I could carry it in the bottom of a suitcase. (Thanks to that feature, I banded my only Painted Bunting on a lawn in Palm Beach, Florida, during an Easter holiday). This trap can be baited with grain for the usual "bird feeder" clientele. But I found it useful also for species attracted to bread, such as Robins and Starlings, or else for Mockingbirds attracted to raisins. One can bait it also with string or other nesting materials; or it can be placed under a water-drip mechanism. I successfully tacked it to tree trunks over suet holders and caught woodpeckers, nuthatches, creepers, chickadees and starlings; in this case I used the two-door model.

The trap should be provided with a hinged door on top, through which one can reach to remove birds. This door must have a hook to keep it closed at other times.

Closure of the door(s) can be maintained by rubberbands or wire springs. Tension of these, when door is open in the set position, is transmitted to the trigger system and thereby keeps it cocked, ready to go off. When the bird steps on thread (E), it pulls trigger hook (D) off the trigger stick (C) and released the stiff wire (B) that is holding up the door (A).

Legend for figure:

A. Hinged Door; B. Stiff wire, threaded in door and extending under trigger stick; C. Trigger stick, hinged at far end, and holding down the stiff wire; D. Trigger hook, threaded into junction of top and side, and hooked over end of trigger stick;