

DOES BANDING SCARE BIRDS AWAY?

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I have been refused by neighbors who were feeding birds to get permission to put traps in their yards. They did not want to scare the birds away. I decided to find out by studying my records of returns; here's the record: Records are based on a 100 birds or multiples of a 100; therefore the numbers are percentages.

Species	Returned Within 3 days	Returned Within 10 days	Returned Within 30 days
White-throated Sparrow	28	48	64
Purple Finch	21	28	53
Field Sparrow	16	40	77
Junco	17	20	40
Chipping Sparrow	6	10	34
Rufous-sided Towhee	11	14	24
Cardinal	9	13	24
Blue Jay	3	6	12
Mourning Dove	8	12	17
Cowbird	2	3	10
Common Grackles	1	1	1

Once I started trapping, I had much less trouble with Grackle and Blue Jay getting in my corn field at harvest time--my garden was much safer!

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