

BIRD BANDING STATIONS AT ROCHESTER, N. Y.

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THE photographs show the station where the Tree Sparrow records given in this number of the Bulletin were obtained. They are in the yard of my residence in Highland Park in the southern portion of Rochester, about seven miles south of Lake Ontario on the southern slope of the Pinnacle Range of hills.

Sub-station A. is a drop trap over a bird bath (see upper picture in accompanying plate) in operation except when buried in deep snow.* A small fountain discharges water into the back of the bath through the screen of the trap. Canary, millet and hemp seed with bread crusts are placed around the bath under the trap. The overflow water from this bath follows a channel to a bath below without a trap, as seen to the right of the picture. I tried a trap over both baths but receive best results with one uncovered.

Sub-station E. (see lower picture in accompanying plate), also a drop trap is in use in winter and covered with a shelter of evergreen boughs to protect it from the snow, with the opening facing the house. The birds use the evergreens for perching and pass through them easily. Both traps are used spring and fall when free from snow but E. is not used in summer. They are only a few feet apart, and are visited by the same individuals.

This is a permanent station, in operation the year round except for a couple of weeks in May and September and the birds are caught in early morning, noon or night when I am not busy with park duties. I used a sparrow trap for a couple of years until it was stolen, but I find the drop traps the best for one who lives with his work and is on call any time. There is the danger of birds being left too long in an automatic trap if I am called away, while the drop traps act as feeding stations, the birds passing freely in and out.

Highland Park is famed for its arboretum of small trees and shrubs from every portion of the world. These furnish an abundance of bird food. Tree Sparrows are very partial to the St. John's worts or Hypericums a short distance west of my station. Up the hill back is a collection of Mock Oranges or

*In "Bird Banding Notes" No. 2, Bureau of Biological Survey, June 15, 1922, p. 4, attention is called to this water trap as follows: "We believe this is the *first time* (italics are mine) a bird bath has been used as 'bait'."

Philadelphus with Diervillas or Weigelas nearby; both of these furnish numerous seeds, which in spite of their small size are much sought after. Across Highland Avenue is a partially developed real estate sub-division with plenty of weeds.

It can be seen that this is an ideal location for winter residents. The birds were attracted to the station as a feeding place long before trapping was undertaken, and hence the fine results here are not surprising.

Rochester, New York, June 6, 1926

GENERAL NOTES

An Example of the Tree Swallow's Marital Relations.—Whatever the rule may be regarding the permanency of mating among Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), a series of records at my station in Cohasset, Massachusetts, furnishes a clear case of inconstant mating, as follows: During June, 1925, a pair, Nos. 20422 (♀) and 20423 (♂), raised a brood in Box 1, and a second brood in Box 4. Both of these birds returned in June, 1926, the female going to Box 1, where she is feeding her first brood, but her mate this season is a new bird, unbanded when he came. The old male, No. 20423, behaved similarly, going to Box No. 4 for his first nest with a new unbanded female. There was an interval of eight days between the returns of the 1925 birds. I like to think that they might have remated had they arrived nearer together, rather than that their behaviour is characteristic of the species.—LAURENCE B. FLETCHER, Cohasset, Mass., June 1926.

Catbirds and Colored Bands.—There is rejoicing at our Cohasset banding station, when, after an absence of seven months, the Catbirds return to our window-shelf in early May, for of all the birds that come to the traps, they are the most interesting to study at short range and to have for companions. Their presence at the feeding place, however, in quantity is an expensive luxury. During the nesting season of 1925, six or seven pairs largely supported themselves on seedless raisins, and each pair, fed raisins in quantity to their progeny, both in the nests and for some days after the youngsters had left them. Several pairs raised two broods and required more raisins for them, so that for several weeks the raisin consumption by my Catbirds and a family of Robins was nearly one pound daily.

During June, 1925, five adult Catbirds were banded with colored bands, two with red bands, one on the right tarsus and one on the left tarsus. Two were banded with yellow bands. A third received an orange-colored band. As I felt confident that these colors would endure for at least a year, my interest in the birds' expected return this last May was even greater than during other years. With this background in mind, I was prepared for interesting events, and this is what happened: On May 13th, a Catbird