

“neck space” in the event a bird is able partly to “beat” the door.

The wooden parts should be glued with plastic glue and nailed with suitable coated box nails. The trap can be attached to a window-sill by the use of two 2" iron brackets, part 22, and a brace, part 23, to support the outer, over-hanging part of the trap. The brace can be held against the clapboard and the bottom of the trap by cleats and nailed in position.

When it is desired to drop the door, the tripping mechanism is actuated by pulling string 15, which has been passed inside the room under the window. One can observe the actions of the birds by lowering the window shade to about the level of the trap in order to cut off the birds' view to the inside of the room. Many species are not alarmed unless one moves rapidly, hence unusual precaution is not always necessary.

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#### GENERAL NOTES

**Temporary Loss of Flight.**—Not long ago Parks (1947:75) referred to a couple of cases of flightless Evening Grosbeaks that showed spontaneous recovery. Having handled three such cases on a different basis it seems worthwhile to put them on record even though the causes are unknown. I hope diagnosis of causes may eventually be obtained and we may be able to say something of their frequency. My histories follow.

I. Slate-colored Junco 46-73017. 14 Nov. 1946: banded. 19 Nov. 1946: repeated and noted as flightless. 2 Jan. 1947: repeated and able to fly. 27 Dec. 1947: returned and able to fly.

II. Slate-colored Junco 47-2607. 11 Nov. 1947: banded. 15 Nov. 1947: repeated and noted as flightless. 18 Nov. 1947: the fourth repeat since previous date and still flightless. 24 Nov. 1947: repeated and able to fly. 25 Jan. 1948: the 20th repeat since previous date, flying well on each occasion.

III. Eastern Robin, immature, 47-309853. 12 Oct. 1947: banded. 15 Oct. 1947: taken by hand in early morning and found to be flightless. 15 Oct. 1947: trapped in evening and able to fly.

The most important point is that these three birds, the only ones noted as unable to fly out of about 660 birds handled, all recovered their flight in the wild. The junco 47-2607 was actually seen to approach the traps afoot. When handled it would sometimes move the left wing but not the right one. In each of these cases I feel sure that inability to fly was centered in the flight apparatus and was not due to general disease or debility.

LITERATURE CITED

Parks, G. H.

1947. The Evening Grosbeaks Return to Hartford. *Bird-Banding*, XVIII, no. 2:57-76, April.

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**The Removal of Bands by Cardinals.**—The cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis* (Linnaeus) is noted for its antipathy to aluminum bands. Mrs. Laskey writes (*Wilson Bull.*, 56: 27-44, 1944), "In my experience there is no other bird that attacks the band as the cardinal does. I have had to replace several tempered aluminum bands that had been overlapped by pressure from the beak of the wearer." From my own notes the following episode of February 4, 1945, illustrates a cardinal's irritation at being banded. A female cardinal just banded flew to the nearest tree and immediately began to fight her band. She struggled with it so fiercely that she lost her balance and fluttered to a lower branch and finally to the ground. There she lay in a grotesque position and fought her band for ten more minutes. She then flew to another tree where she continued to peck at it but with diminished vigor. She finally flew out of sight with the band still in place. Young (*Wilson Bull.*, 53: 197-198, 1941) has described an even more vigorous reaction to its band by a cardinal over a period of time. He retrapped the bird five days after banding and replaced the band because it was so badly compressed. Finally, a year and three months after banding, some boys brought him the bird which they had picked up as it lay on the ground struggling with its band. The band was so badly worn and compressed that Young again replaced it with a fresh one, but when he released the bird, it seized the band and refused to fly. Not until the band had been removed, did the thin, tailless bird run into the shrubbery.

A number of banders have considered the possibility of a cardinal removing its band, notably Laskey (1944, *op. cit.*). She states that she has never succeeded in proving that a band has been removed, although she has marked many birds by notching their feathers. She further states, without citing her source, that Mrs. Nice and Van Tyne each have evidence of at least one cardinal having removed its band.

During the last two years, I have definite proof of four cardinals removing their bands, three males and a female. The first case was brought to my attention by a peculiarity of a bird's bill. A male (no. 42-200,770) trapped March 17, 1945 had a groove of the left side of the upper horny beak. It looked as if it were caused by a break which had healed, probably when the bird was young. A sketch was made of the injury in my day book. The bird, easily recognized by the damaged beak, was retaken on May 1 of the same year without a band. It was rebanded and returned on April 11, 1947 but the bill now was normal. Since early in 1945 I have notched the tail feathers of about 100 birds, using a code for each. Of these three have repeated without their bands as follows:

(2) No. 42-200,624, an adult female banded May 6, 1945, repeated 54 days later without a band. She was identified by two notches on the second right tail feather. She was rebanded with 42-200,655.

(3) No. 42-224,923, an adult male banded January 31, 1947, repeated without his band on March 7, 1947. He was identified by two notches on the fourth right tail feather. The right foot showed signs of wear, as if the band had been pulled off slowly and with difficulty. The right leg on which the band had been placed was unusually slender. He was rebanded on the left leg with band no. 42-224,972. He has since repeated on March 15, 23, and 30 and April 4, 1947 with the second band untampered with.

(4) No. 42-224,909, another male, was banded on January 18, 1947, and repeated without his band on January 31, 1947. He was identified by two notches on the third right tail feather. This bird was rebanded with 42-224,926.