

The manufacturer, with House Sparrows in mind, makes the following recommendations:

1. Prebait, especially on top of the trap. A flat, shallow pan is suggested.
2. Trap works as well on the ground as off the ground. However, an off the ground location is recommended for House Sparrows. Off the ground is also good for Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and Goldfinches.
3. Leave one or two live birds in the trap to attract others. Water-soaked bread will keep captives alive.
4. The best time of year is the middle and late summer when the young sparrows are shifting for themselves, but leave the trap out all the time for it will catch sparrows throughout the year. To reach full effectiveness the trap should be weathered, the newness of wire detracting from a trap's effectiveness. (In this connection, the results of Merrill Wood's testing of various materials should be mentioned. He proved flat (dull) black paint as most efficacious for painting the wire of bird banding traps.) This material can be bought in spray cans.

Price: 1 for \$9.95 or 2 for \$17.50, postpaid.

This new sparrow trap was tested by Mrs. Jephtha H. Wade, a bander in Bedford, Massachusetts, and by myself. It is fair to say that the standard model will catch any small songbird, up to and including the cowbird. It would seem birds larger than the cowbird would be too large for the entrance mechanism. Banders no doubt will want to experiment with a similar top entrance for larger birds. It is also hoped banders will test the Johnson trap alongside other designs and report back. It could be anticipated it would be especially valuable for catching purple finches set off the ground on a feeder or table arrangement. —Edwin A. Mason, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Mass.

*Ed. note:* we have obtained one of these traps, but have not yet had opportunity to test it. In addition to the points noted by Mr. Mason, we suggest (1) smoothing any sharp ends of wire; (2) cutting a door in the end of the trap away from the entrance, perhaps 5" wide and 6" high, for use with a gathering cage (cover with a piece of welded wire or heavy-gauge hardware cloth 2" wider than the door, and as high as the trap, fastened with 2 or 3 loose loops of wire at the top, so that it will lie flat on top of the trap when the trap is not in use; when the trap is to be used, a small block of wood against the door is better than a more rigid device to keep the door shut, if squirrels or other mammals may get into the trap); (3) when the trap is to be left open, open the entrance as far as the pivot will allow, and fasten the other end of that piece of wire to the top of the trap with a loop of wire or battery clamp, so that birds can enter freely and become more accustomed to the trap.

**Golden Eagle 509-50214.**—The recovery of this band, from a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) "found long dead" south of Quarryville, Pa., on November 5, 1963 is the first from an eagle banded as a juvenile from a known Appalachian nest. This bird was banded as a 10-month-old eaglet in the nest on 10 July, 1963, in Maine. Since I discovered this pair of eagles in 1955, this is the third eaglet raised, each of the others (banded in July, 1957 and July, 1960) being as yet unreported.

Since Snyder reviewed the evidence, that Golden Eagles have probably been nesting at remote sites in Quebec since first reported by Edwards in 1743, it has been suspected that the small contingent of eagles migrating past Hawk Mountain each autumn were from this source. Since the more recent discovery of a remnant few breeding in our own northern Appalachians it has seemed possible that some of the variously 30 to 83 birds which pass each fall may be from south of the St. Lawrence River. Whether this more southern population is regularly migratory has not been established. Varying Hare, a staple food item, and grouse *sp.* are available all winter, but many other food items such as marmot and bittern are not. It may be suspected that in regions of intermediate winter severity, some eagles may migrate and others not, and presumably the relatively unskillful juveniles and immatures without home range of their own would be likely to migrate to more southern wintering grounds. It has been reported elsewhere that small numbers of Golden Eagles appear during winter in the "badlands" of the Cumberland, Tennessee.

Two adults and a juvenile passing within a twenty-minute space at Hawk Mountain may be taken to indicate complete family units in migration, and perhaps all of these are from north of the St. Lawrence River.

In spite of the now federally protected status of these rare birds they continue to be shot. Another one, also apparently immature or juvenile, was "found dead" by hunters in Berks County, Pa., only a few miles away, in December.

In view of the drastic decline in nesting success of the Whiteheaded Eagle in eastern America, it is perhaps worth noting that the Golden Eagle appears seldom to breed within our region. One pair in the Adirondacks, which raised one young in 1957, has repaired one or more of their nests each year since then but has failed to breed. Another pair, in Maine, has raised probably three young in 10 years. And another pair in the Adirondacks appears not to have nested at all since discovered in 1956, although decorating their only known nest until 1960. It is of course well known that the Golden Eagle is not a regular annual breeder, but this record seems unusually low. Dr. Cade has reported that a pair he watched for four years in the Brooks Range of Alaska has yet to have a successful breeding.—Walter R. Spofford, Upstate Medical College, Syracuse 10, N. Y.

**Old Chickadee.**—In reply to the note "Nine-year-old Chickadee", *Bird-Banding*, 35: 41, January, 1964, by William P. Wharton, I would like to submit a candidate for the record as "oldest Chickadee".

Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) No. 21-13683, banded January 17, 1954, last retrapped February 9, 1964 (10 years, 23 days) and still going strong. Estimating birth date of June 1, 1953, this bird is 10 years and 8 months old.—John H. Kennard, M.D., 182 Tarrytown Road, Manchester, N. H.

**Old Chickadee.**—I have a record of another elderly Black-capped Chickadee, No. 41-56816, banded April 12, 1941, as an adult. It was retrapped Oct. 1941, Oct. 1942, and Mar. 1944 (color-banded, blue). Sight returns: Sept. 1944, Nov. 1945, May 1946, Oct. 1946, Apr. 1947, (no record in 1948), Feb. 1949 (added red color-band), Aug. 1949, last seen Sept. 11, 1949. These records cover 7 years and 5 months, and the bird was probably about 9 years and 3 months old inasmuch as it was banded as an adult.—Mrs. Charles L. Smith, 75 Westland Road, Weston 93, Mass.

**Old Chickadee.**—Black-capped Chickadee No. 23-38726 was banded here on August 18, 1954. It was identified as an adult by Dr. Charles H. Blake, who has made a particular study of age characters in this species. It has returned in 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1963. It was last handled on September 10, 1963, just over 9 years from the date banded. As it was an adult when banded, its age in September, 1963 would have been about 10 years and 3 months. I have one or two others that are at least nine-years-old.—Mrs. J. R. Downs, So. Londonderry, Vt. 05155.

**Winter quarters of Purple Finch.**—In *Bird-Banding*, 33: 173 (1962) I remarked: "The proportion of returns suggests that the residence in a given winter is not entirely determined by chance." The returning birds of last winter and so far this winter are a dramatic (perhaps too dramatic) illustration. The winters ending in even numbered years provide relatively high numbers of finches in the South and may be called "good" winters, the intervening winters may be called "off."

The two returns for the winter 1962-63 had the following histories:

51-66353	ad ♂	31 Mar 1958
		1 Feb. - 6 Apr. 1960
		16 Jan - 3 Mar 1961
		29 Jan - 7 Apr 1962
		4 Jan 1963
53-63097	ad ♂	30 Nov 1959 - 21 Mar 1960
		29 Dec 1960 - 3 Mar 1961
		15 Jan - 2 Mar 1962
		27 Jan 1963