Average = 13.46). It was good to see their numbers bounce back after a below-average showing in 2003. Both Downy Woodpecker (2004 Total = 10, Yearly Average = 4.62) and Wood Thrush (2004 Total = 5, Yearly Average = 1.15) showed above-average numbers. Wood Thrush were virtually absent until 1999, and it is nice to see and hear their presence. Their reappearance might also be due to regrowth of the understory following efforts to reduce the overpopulation of white-tailed deer in the 1990s. It was another below-average year for Indigo Bunting (2004 Total = 1, Yearly Average = 4.85). This is the fourth straight year we have netted few indigos even though they are usually heard singing on territory.

Our report does not include everything we submit to IBP at Point Reyes Bird Observatory. More information is available through an interactive web site at: http://www.birdpop.org/nbii/default.asp

The IBP has become a partner with the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) / Biological Resources Division (BRD) in the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) web-based electronic information network. This has allowed IBP to make available on-line the annual reports of the MAPS program. Through this web-based query interface, MAPS data covering the period 1989-1998 and station information covering the period 1989-2000 are available on line. Here you will find breeding and habitat data for our MAPS site and rigorous analyses of productivity and survivorship for individual species by geographical region. For reference when using the site, we are station "M1—", our location is "WATE", and our region is "NC North-central".

Use of the web site is free, but the first time you must register your e-mail address and affiliation (say Chicagoland Bird Observatory if you like) and your reason for viewing the site. Once you gain access, select the area of interest from the menu on the left side. For example, to see the breeding status of any birds heard or seen at our study site select "Breeding Status" and select "M1—" from the pop-up list. If you click on "Survivorship" and enter our region (NC) and a species, say Black-capped Chickadee, you can see that the probability of an adult chickadee surviving to and returning in a particular year to an area where it was present in the previous year is 38.2%.

The Chicagoland Bird Observatory would like to thank the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in Illinois for granting us permission to conduct research in Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve.

Glenn Gabanski
Chicagoland Bird Observatory
c/o Camp Sagawau
12545 111th St.
Lemont, IL 60439-9330
ggabanski@comcast.net

A Quick, Inexpensive Trap for Use with Nest Boxes

Stutchbury and Robertson (1986) describe a simple and effective trap design for capturing cavity-nesting species in artificial nesting boxes. Their trap consisted of a square aluminum plate that is affixed to the inside of the nest box using strips of masking tape (diagrams contained in Stuchbury and Robertson 1986). To set their trap, the plate is supported upright by using a stick or shoot of grass. Here, we present a modification of this original trap design, which allows for easier field use and is also more cost effective.

Our trap is designed specifically for the side-opening style promoted by The North American Bluebird Society (Fig. 1; for box plans see http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org). This style of box allows for easy access for installation of the trap within the box and subsequently for access to captured birds. Our innovation involves replacing the aluminum plate with a piece of 1/4-in hardware cloth, which is both more cost efficient (approximately $0.01 ea) and more easily affixed within the box. Additionally, traps can be manufactured within seconds in the field, allowing for a flexible trapping schedule. Hardware cloth is comprised of stiff, interwoven wire and is available at most hardware stores. The hardware cloth is cut into a square (6.5 x 6.5 cm) and duct tape (5.8 x 6.5 cm) is folded around the bottom to provide

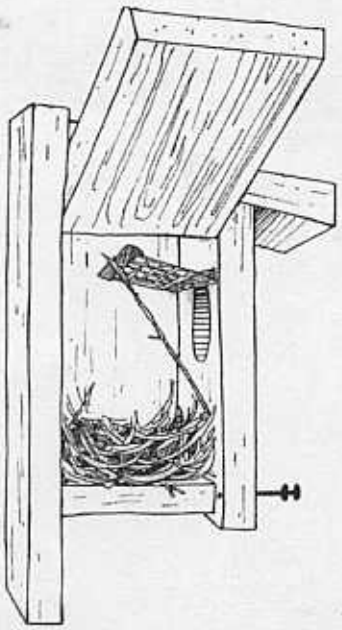

Fig. 1. Side-opening nest-box design with trap set within the box.

additional mass to the mechanism. A second piece of duct tape (5.8 x 6.5 cm) is used to affix the trap to the inside of the box, immediately above the entrance hole (Fig. 1). The trap is light (about 4 g), allowing for the use of a thin shoot of grass to support the trap within the box.

During the course of our studies, we captured about 500 male and female adult Eastern Bluebirds *(Sialia sialis)*. The trapping technique is similar to that described by Stuchbury and Robertson (1986). Trapping was most effective during morning hours (0600 - 1100 h), and when chicks were between 3 - 12 d old. During this period of the nesting cycle, nestlings have the highest energy demand and both the male and female are intensively provisioning. Additionally, nestlings are sedentary, minimizing unintentional trap tripping by nestlings. Individuals were usually caught within 20 min of installing the trap; however, if unsuccessful, the trap was used on a box for a maximum of 1 hr.

The trap is inexpensive and proficient use requires minutes of training, unlike mist-nets. Trapping was 90% effective when used within the suggested time frame, and no injuries were incurred while using the trap. The original design by Stuchbury and Robertson (1986) is effective, yet we believe these modifications provide a substantial increase in efficiency and adaptability.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our thanks to H. Gangloff for illustrative services. Additionally, we thank P. Lowther for suggesting we submit this note.

***Thomas J. Robinson*[1,3], *Lynn M. Siefferman*[2], *and Thomas S. Risch*[1]**

[1]Department of Biological Sciences
Arkansas State University
P.O. Box 599
State University, AR 72467

[2]Department of Biological Sciences
Auburn University
331 Funchess Hall
Auburn, AL 36849

[3]Corresponding author e-mail:
trobinson@astate.edu