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United States Department of Agriculture,

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY—Circular No. 46.

DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTING BIRDS' STOMACHS.

In collecting birds' stomachs for the Biological Survey, the tags and schedules supplied by the Survey should be used. The tags should be numbered with good carbon ink, and should not be put into the alcohol until the ink is thoroughly dry. The numbers should form one continuous series, and should not be repeated no matter how many stomachs are sent in.

The tags should be tied to the esophagus (gullet) close to the stomach (gizzard), and the loose ends of the thread cut off. If the crop or gullet is full of food, it should be inclosed with the stomach in a piece of thin cloth (cheese cloth is best) and securely tied with the tag thread. If any food has escaped, it also should be inclosed in the cloth with the stomach to which it belongs.

The stomachs should be put in alcohol (80 to 85 percent) or formalin (4 or 5 percent) where they should remain ten days, or as much longer as is convenient.

The data called for on the schedule should be there recorded. The essential points are, *name of bird*, *date of collection*, and *locality*; without these the stomach is useless. If possible the remaining data asked for should be furnished.

When the collector is ready to forward the stomachs to the Survey, they should be taken out of the alcohol or formalin and partly dried. Three or four hours is usually long enough to dry them sufficiently for mailing. If left too wet there is danger of leakage while in transit in the mail pouches.

After drying, the stomachs should be wrapped in paper or cloth and put in a baking-powder can, cigar box, or similar receptacle, and tied up closely in paper. A penalty envelope addressed to the Biological Survey should be attached to each package before mailing. No postage is required.

It is preferable, although not essential, that stomachs be sent to the Survey in full schedule lots.

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Chief, Biological Survey.

Approved:

James Wilson

Secretary of Agriculture.

