

recorders. You also don't want a microphone that needs batteries. Once you set it up you will want to keep it on.

Next, I set to the task of attaching the microphone outside and keeping it dry. The design of my house gave me an easy solution. The west side has a three-foot overhang under which I have installed a metal hanger to hold the hose when it's not in use. I simply used some duct tape to fasten the microphone under the hanger. It made a perfect roof. When I store the hose there now, it provides even more protection for the microphone, but it does block some sound.

I gave the last problem the most thought. I needed to run the microphone cord into the house, but I really didn't want to drill a hole in the foundation, at least not until I was sure the sound system would work.

So I opened a basement window and storm window, pulled the microphone cord in from outside, and tried to close

both windows. No problem. With the cord in one corner, both the windows not only closed, but also locked. I turned on the recorder to see how loud it would amplify, and could hear my birds as if I were outside. My makeshift solution worked just fine.

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*'Sound gives indoor birding a whole new dimension.'*

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The next morning I turned on my new sound system and heard the crows mobbing some poor raptor across the street. Mourning Doves sounded as if they were cooing right next to me. The House Finches' sweet warbles filled the house. I heard it all from the comfort of my own home.

The other night, a violent thunderstorm came through northern Illinois. Had I been

home, I would have covered the microphone with plastic. It got wet, though, and I wasn't optimistic about its survival.

This morning, however, when I turned on the tape recorder, the bird sounds came in loud and clear. I'll let you know whether it's still operational after the first winter blizzard. ■

A special request: I'm interested in sightings of Ringed Turtle Doves at your feeders. If they visit, please keep track of the dates, time, and number as well as any attempt to nest. Please send the results and any other comments and questions about Feeder Station to:

3417 W. 123rd Street  
Alsip, IL 60658.

*Sue Friscia is field trip chairman for the Illinois Ornithological Society and membership chairman for the Chicago Ornithological Society.*

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## AVIAN ANNALS

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*by Eric Walters*

### 75 years ago:

Commenting on the Lake Calumet region, one writer stated, "Today much of the wonderful bird life is gone never to return and where once could be seen thousands of ducks, geese, and other waterfowl, now small flocks of birds are a novel sight."

T.E. Musselman reports on rarities recently seen in the Quincy area. Supposedly, he saw Roseate Spoonbills, three Labrador Ducks, a White-headed Woodpecker, and Bohemian Wax-

wings.

### 50 years ago:

The title of an article in the Audubon Bulletin: "Metropolitan Chicago Not Popular for Birdlife."

### 20 years ago:

Northern Goshawks invaded the state this fall which led observers to make remarks such as these: "seen in unprecedented numbers," "truly staggering, especially considering the rarity of the bird in the area." ■