In general the Surinam birdcatcher employs the following means and methods: (1) a fall-trap or "kravanna"; (2) a trap-cage or "knipkooi"; (3) birdlime; (4) snares; and (5) nest robbing.

THE KRAVANNA

The "kravanna" is a coop trap made of twigs and sticks, graded in length and arranged in square pyramidal form with the longest pieces at the base. The whole structure is drawn together and held firmly by two strings, or tough bush-ropes, fastened at the four corners and twisted together at the top by means of a little stick around which the strings are looped. The contrivance very much resembles the coop trap used in some parts of the United States 1) and in Bermuda 2).

Any kind of wood may be used in making the trap, but it is best to use rustic material. A good wood, generally favored for this purpose, is the "Bralief" or "Bradi-lifi (Broad-leaf), Coccalobia latifolia Lam., which grows abundantly in the pastures about Paramaribo. The trunk is straight and is easily split to suit.

To set the trap one edge is raised from the ground and supported by means of a light prop made in two parts and halved to fit. Through the joint a string is looped and fastened to the opposite corners of the trap, carefully adjusted so that it will be an inch or so above the ground. Bait is scattered in front of the kravanna in such a manner as to lead to and under the trap where a more tempting quantity is placed. The nature of the bait depends, of course, upon the species desired. Thus for finches and blackbirds rice is used, and for pigeons corn or lime seeds. In attempting to reach the bait the bird stumbles over the string, the prop collapses, and the trap falls.

A kravanna for seed-eaters (Sporophila sp.) must be of

1) There is an illustration of such a trap in W. H. Gibson's Camp Life in the Woods and the Tricks of Trapping and Trap Making, 1902, p. 68. This differs somewhat in details of construction, but in principle it is the same as the kravanna.