

- BISSONNETTE, T. H.  
1930a. Studies on the secual cycle in birds.  
1. Sexual maturity, its modifications and possible control in the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). *Amer. Journ. Anat.*, 45: 289-305.  
1932. Light and diet in relation to sexual periodicity. *Nature*, Apr. 23, 1932.
- BROWN, F. A., AND MARIE ROLLO.  
1940. Light and molt in weaver finches. *Auk*, 57: 485-498.
- EIFRIG, G.  
1924. Is photoperiodism a factor in the migration of birds? *Auk*, 41: 439-444.
- GARNER, W. AND H. A. ALLARD.  
1920. Flowering and fruiting of plants controlled by length of day. *Yrb. U. S. Dept. Agric.* 852.
- LINCOLN, F. C.  
1939. *The Migration of American Birds*. Doubleday, Doran and Co., Inc., N. Y.
- MOREAU, R. E.  
1928. Some further notes from the Egyptian desert. *Ibis*: 453-475.
- ROWAN, WILLIAM.  
1925. Relation of light to bird migration and developmental changes. *Nature*, 115: 494-495.
- tis Road, Barrington, Illinois.

---

## NEW BIRD-TRAPPING DEVICES

By H. M. BRUNDRETT

THE devices hereinafter described have provided efficient methods of capturing birds of various kinds for the purpose of studying the ectoparasites with which they are infested and also for determining the extent to which they serve as intermediate hosts for parasites of domestic animals. It is believed that the devices will be useful in other biological studies where the trapping of birds is necessary.

### MODIFIED "FIGURE 4" BIRD-TRAP TRIGGER

The usual "figure 4" bird-trap trigger has a number of undesirable features, especially when the traps are used extensively. First, the single vertical post of the trigger is an inadequate support for the trap and other trigger parts. The support is not steady enough to prevent the trap from slipping or falling, especially in a strong breeze. Second, the base of the post, which is usually small, sinks, especially if the ground is soft. Here again the trap may be sprung, or the trigger rendered inoperative. Last, and most important, the trigger bar of the ordinary "figure 4" trigger is not equally sensitive to light pressure from all directions.

The improved trigger was designed to remedy the above-mentioned faults. The single support post of the usual type is

replaced by a double post attached to a platform. This double post and platform construction insures a steadier support and allows the use of a more sensitive trigger head. The trigger was made sensitive to light pressure from all movements in a vertical plane by prolonging a central rectangular piece one-eighth inch in front of the body of the trigger head. Sensitiveness to pressure in a horizontal plane was increased by driving the stem of a nail through the head of the trigger at the center immediately behind the rectangular prolongation.

THE OPERATION OF THE MODIFIED "FIGURE 4" BIRD-TRAP TRIGGER.—The accompanying drawings show the trigger head (fig. 2), the trigger in side view (fig. 1), and the trigger head in perspective (fig. 3). A photograph of the trap in position is shown in figure 4. The parts as lettered on the drawings (figs. 1 and 2) are: A, trigger bar; B, latch bar; C, trap bar; D, support post; E, posts; F, trigger head; G, base; and H, head bar (cross bar).

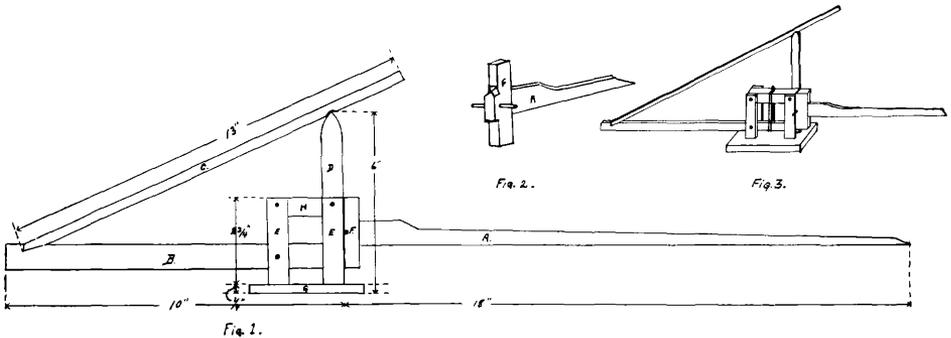


Figure 1—Details of modified "figure 4" bird-trap trigger.  
Figure 2—Details of the trigger head.  
Figure 3—Drawing (in perspective) of the modified trigger.

When set in position the trap rests upon the upper end of C, which rests on D. The lower end of C fits in a slot at one end of B. Trigger head F is notched as shown in figure 2, and is held in position by placing the notched prolongation between the ends of B and H. Pressure is exerted upon the trigger head by B, which is pivoted on a pin through E and is actuated by a rubber band around B and H. The central prolongation of F causes the trigger to trip quickly when acted upon in a vertical direction, while the pin through F causes it to trip when acted upon in a horizontal direction. The sensitiveness of the trigger is changed by modifying

the size and shape of the top notch in trigger head F. Bait is placed under A, which should lie in a horizontal position under the trap about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches from the ground.

For satisfactory operation the trigger should be made of well-seasoned light wood and thoroughly varnished with a good water-proof varnish. This prevents swelling and sticking when it becomes wet with dew or rain.

#### MAZE BIRD TRAP

The maze bird trap has been used very successfully in trapping

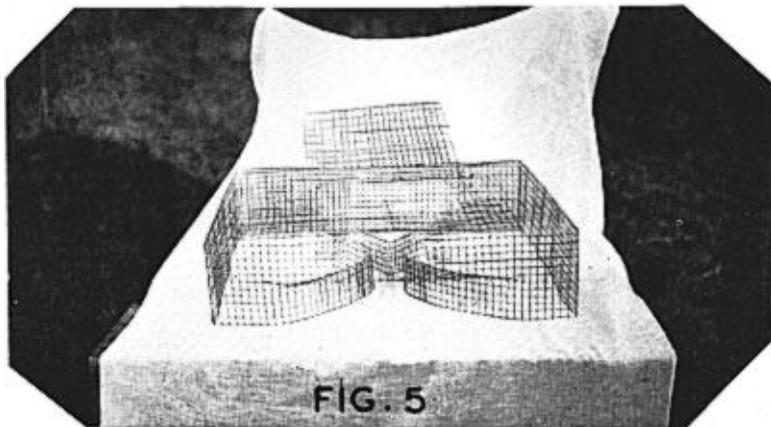
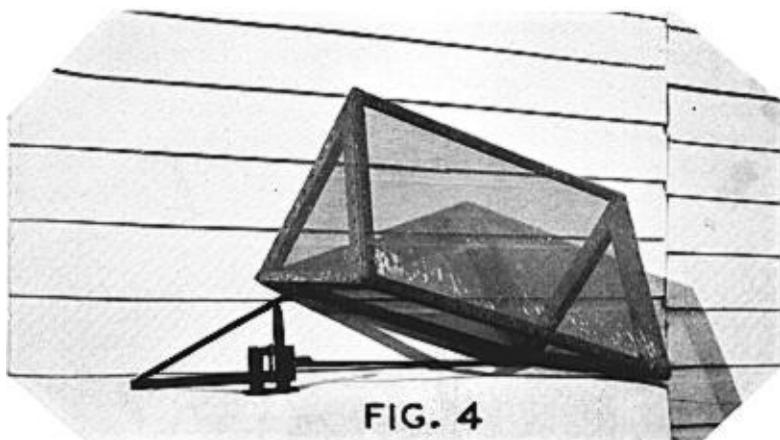


Figure 4—Modified "figure 4" trigger and bird trap in position.  
Figure 5—Maze bird trap in normal position.

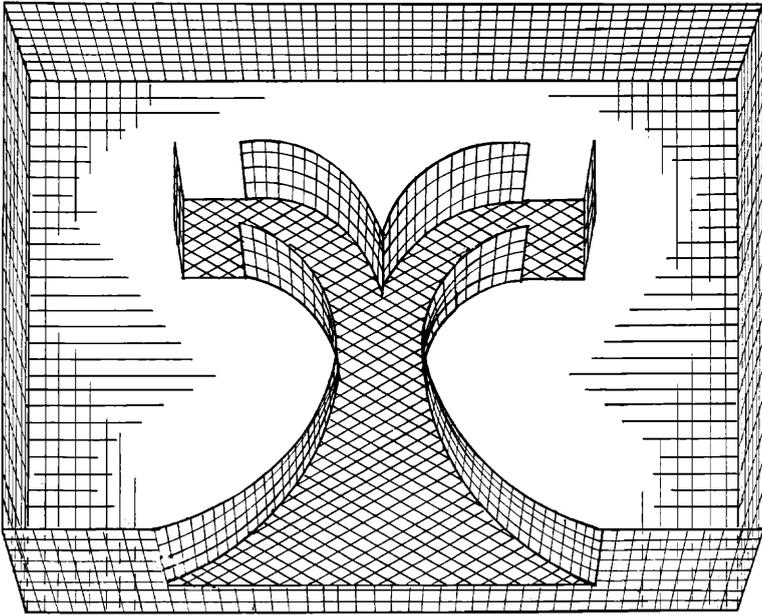
Quail, Cardinals, Meadowlarks, Towhees, Brown Thrashers, English Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Eastern Song Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, and Eastern Field Sparrows.

The trap is constructed of half-inch mesh hardware cloth shaped to form a shallow box. The entrance to the simple "Y" maze is placed in one side of the trap. The birds pass into the trap, but once inside they tend to remain close to the outer walls, and in so doing fail to find the central exit.

The dimensions of the trap are: Length, 2 feet; breadth, 2 feet; height, 6 inches. Dimensions of maze: Length, 12 inches; height, 3 inches; width of mouth, 15 inches; width of neck  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

A small door is cut in the top, through which the hand may be inserted and the birds removed.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 5 shows the trap in its normal position but with the door open. The drawing (fig. 6) shows the trap in an inverted position.



**FIG. 6.**

Figure 6—Drawing of the maze bird trap (inverted position).

<sup>1</sup> A door near one corner through which the birds can be driven into a gathering cage would probably be more convenient. Editor.

When in use the lower edges of the trap and maze rest upon the ground.

To attract the birds into the trap, a grain bait is scattered about on the ground in the trap, in the maze passage, and a little outside the entrance. The operation of this trap is continuous, making it possible to catch a considerable number of birds at one time.

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture.



SOME INTERESTING RECORDS FROM BIRDS BANDED  
AT AVERY ISLAND, RETAKEN DURING THE WINTER  
OF 1940-1941

By E. A. McILHENNY

WHEN one has handled yearly as many birds as I have and affixed an identifying metal band to each one over a thirty-year period, the differences in construction of each year's bands (and there are differences prior to 1938) are quite noticeable. I am now referring to No. 6 bands. Each series of bands issued by the Biological Survey, now the Fish and Wildlife Service, has stamped on each band besides the serial number a prefix letter or number, indicating the year of issue.

Prior to 1939, there was a marked yearly difference in the No. 6 Band, or in the metal contained in this particular size, or in its numbering, as put out by the Biological Survey, now the Fish and Wildlife Service. Knowing these differences, it is easy for one to identify No. 6 bands of the different series by their peculiarities.