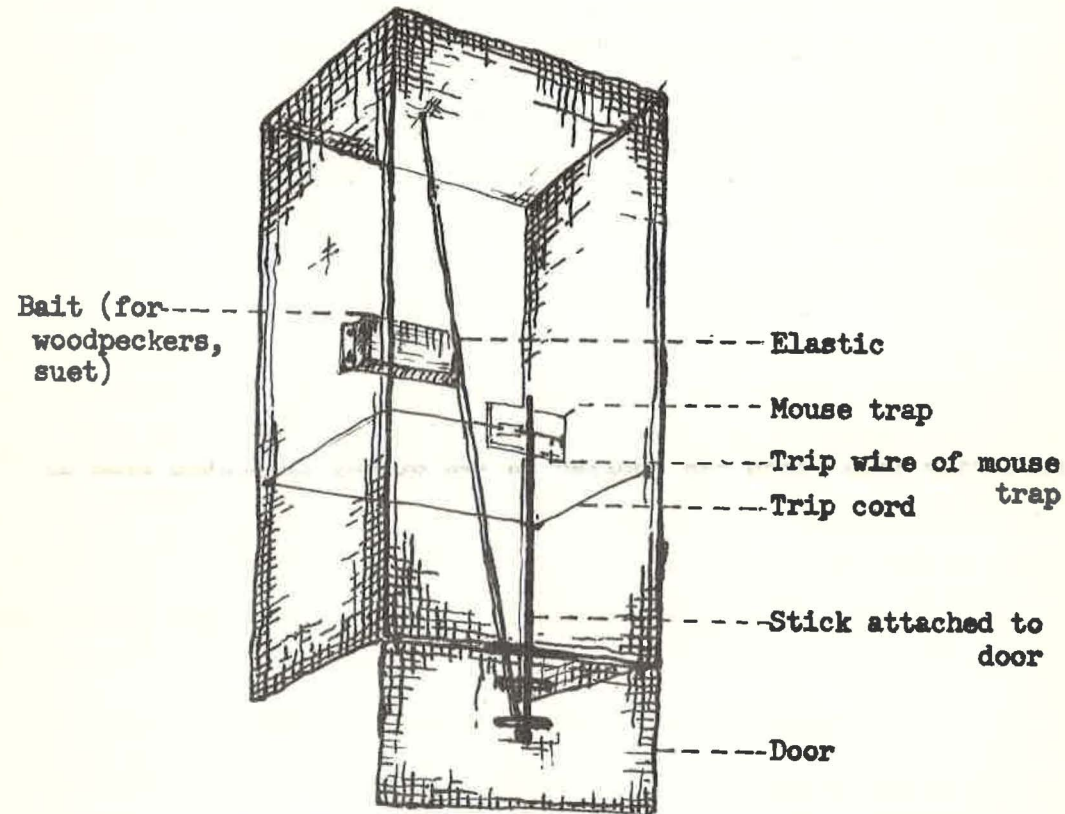


## THE FLUCK WOODPECKER TRAP



The general design of this trap is such that it can be used in a variety of situations, yet it is the best tree trap for woodpeckers that the writer has used in nineteen years of banding. The trap is very simple to make (this afternoon I made one for use on a feeding tray in about two hours), and the size can be adapted to the tree on which it is placed. In general, it should be placed on a tree of considerable diameter which affords a relatively flat surface at least eight inches wide; otherwise, the trap can be built on a board which can be attached to a smaller tree. As to size, 8" wide by 6" deep by 15 to 18" high is satisfactory, but size may be varied

to suit conditions. (For example, the trap made this afternoon for use in a horizontal position on a feeding shelf is 10" wide, 8" high or deep and 13" long.

The motive power for closing the door is provided by rubber bands or, better yet, by a piece of elastic tape such as is used in garments. It is attached at the bottom or outer edge of the door and at the top or back of the trap; the tension should be sufficient to hold the door firmly closed. The trip mechanism is simply a piece of fishing leader which stretches across the path of the bird as it progresses toward the food; this cord actuates the trigger on an ordinary mouse trap, thus releasing the trip wire which releases the stick attached to the door. An opening is provided in the middle of the trap, above the mouse trap, for removing the bird; or, if one wishes, a side opening can be provided for a gathering cage.

The mouse-trap trigger arrangement of Dr. Fluck is a very versatile idea which can be applied in lieu of any trip-step type of mechanism and which seems to be superior. An ordinary wooden type mouse trap is used; the spring and yoke which catches the mouse are not used for our purposes, and can be removed. We have left, aside from the wooden base, the trigger and the trip wire. One end of the fishing leader is fastened through a hole drilled in the end of the trigger, while the other is tied to a side of the trap as shown; the tension in the leader should be such that when the trigger is engaged with the trip wire, the leader is reasonably tight. The height of the leader above the bottom of the trap, or from the surface of the tree, should be about one inch; this adjustment can be accomplished by passing it through different meshes of the trap frame. To set the trap, the door is pulled into the open position, against the tension of the rubber tape, allowing the wooden stick ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " dowel) to be placed under the trip wire of the mouse trap, after which the trip wire is engaged in the trigger. When a bird in trying to get to the food disturbs the fine fishing leader, this pulls on the trigger and the dowel is released. (Note: In order to allow the trigger freedom of movement, it is usually necessary to cut away the wood of the mousetrap in front of the point at which the trigger is nailed to the base, being careful to allow sufficient wood to remain so that the trigger does not come loose.)

--A.E.C.

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