

A SANDPIPER TRAP

Mr. W. M. Davidson, 1504 Bodell St., Orlando, Florida, gives us this information about traps for sandpipers:

"The sandpiper trap which I described in EBBA NEWS in 1949 was instrumental in capturing sandpipers when attended carefully. It consisted of a circular trap made of foot-high small mesh chicken wire, with an opening of about 3" wide and 8" high. Wire leads were enmeshed to each side of the opening to guide the birds into the trap. Over the top I tied on netting, and the cut ends of the wire were angled inwards to restrain the birds from escaping, as much as possible. Such a trap is very cheaply made.

"Although I still use the above-described trap, I prefer the Bartel sandpiper traps which are equipped with a ramp leading into the interior chamber. This trap is modelled after a trap used at the Austin Ornithological Station at Eastham, Mass., and described by Seth Low in BIRD BANDING, Vol. 6, No. 1, Jan. 1935, p. 19.

"I have had quite satisfactory success with my two Bartel sandpiper traps in capturing sandpipers and Wilson's Eblers, but I think there is room for improvement in its construction, although I have not hit upon a solution so far. Bartel painted the traps sand color at my request, and I have no black traps to compare with them. I have had the most success in the few instances where I found sandpipers feeding at a particular spot to which they returned repeatedly, the presence of the traps notwithstanding. Otherwise, it has been necessary to drive the birds along the waterline or across the mudflat towards the traps, and the majority would fly over the traps. For Black-bellied Plover, Turnstone, and Willet, I bought from Bartel two large Potter-type traps, double-celled and painted light brown, with openings nine and one-half inches square. Shrimp makes a good bait."

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AN EXCELLENT OBSERVATION

Louis H. Reichel, 8140 Burholme Ave., Philadelphia 11, Pa., says, "Re question of whether to band or kill Starlings that enter our traps, I thought the permit we receive was for banding not killing."

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