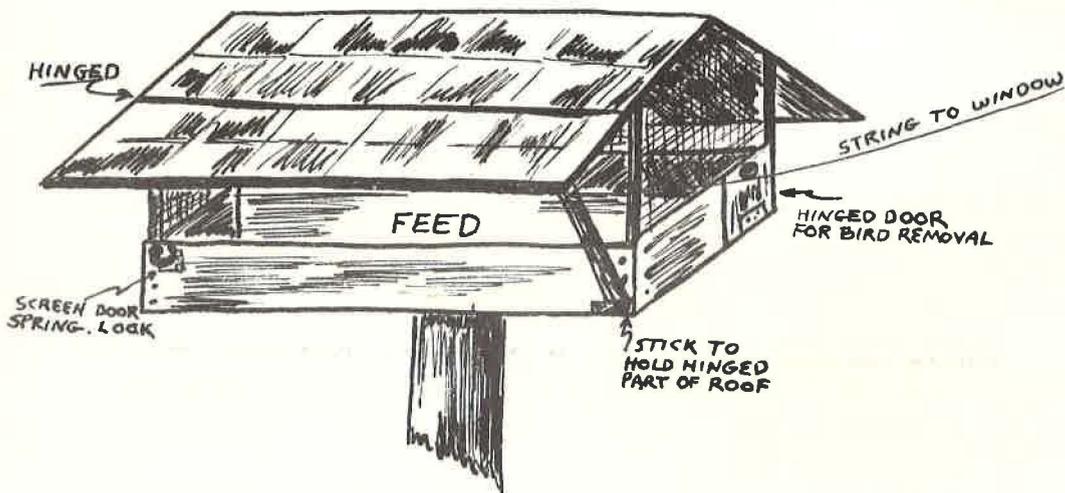


DUAL PURPOSE FEEDER-TRAP

by Joseph J. Malek

Being a weekend and a few minutes here and there bander during the week, I find that automatic traps are not practical for me. I have depended mostly on a combination of a feeder and a trap, utilizing a drop door.



The feeder-trap illustrated measures 30 x 18 x 18 inches at the peak, It is nothing more than a tray feeder with a roof; three sides are covered with wire mesh and one side is left open. The hinged part of the roof is fitted so that when it drops it covers the opening. A stick holds the roof section in open position; when the string is pulled, the door falls, capturing the desired bird.

To hold the door closed, a screen door spring lock with a weaker spring is used; as the door descends, it trips the lock and holds the door in place. For bait, suet can be tied on the wire mesh, inside the feeder.

The overall size need not be as large as I have made mine. In this trap I have captured Cardinals, Juncos, a Woodpecker, Nuthatches, Chickadees, and Sparrows. -- Route 4, Reading, Pennsylvania

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