



THE SETH LOW -- ALL PURPOSE TRAP

By Frank P. Frazier

The Seth Low -- All Purpose Trap shown on the opposite page is very like the one on Seth Low's farm in 1960 (although that one was set in concrete and had only one gathering cage -- at the bottom.) I have found that a second gathering cage at the top helps collect birds that persist in keeping to the top of the trap. I have also used successfully a single gathering cage that is the full height of the trap.

I have found the 24" height to be most satisfactory, but others have had good results with traps from 10 to 18 inches high.

Heavy hardware cloth may be used in the construction, but the best and longest lasting material is 1 x 1/2" mesh 20 gauge galvanized wire net. (The top may be made from light poultry wire, 1" mesh or less, in the interests of economy but will have to be replaced in several years.) The base, if added strength is desired, should be reinforced with 1/8 to 3/16" galvanized fence wire.

Basic Materials Required for trap shown:

Sides -- 2 pieces 9 ft. x 2 ft.

Top -- 1 piece about 3 ft. x 7 ft.

Collecting Cages -- each - 1 piece 4 ft. x 1 ft.

Squeeze Clips, string, a spring clothespin, galvanized fence wire

The removal door may be made from a scrap of the above, a piece of tin or other metal, or a piece of inner tube (as shown in the July-August EBBA News page 145.) If a top collecting cage is used, a piece of wood (plywood will do) should be fastened underneath it to prevent the possibility of broken legs.

To de-activate the trap, an extra door or two may be inserted. Better yet, fix the top so that it may be rolled back to give the birds a big escape hatch.

To induce reluctant birds to enter the gathering cage, a deflector placed at right angles to the swinging door can be helpful. Leads are also found useful in trapping rails, shorebirds, and even Robins.

In addition to bait, a water drip or pan of water may be used as a lure.

If predators are a problem, a wire floor to the trap may be made and attached. The trap then should be sunk an inch or so into the ground, and dirt sprinkled on the wire floor. Perches, made from 1/4" dowels or from small branches, thrust from side to side through the wire mesh, help to keep birds from banging themselves up in the effort to escape.