

If anyone would want to try solenoids and has a special problem to overcome, I would be glad to help in any way I could. Also, the Thorne Ecological Research Station, 1707 Hillside Road, Boulder, Colorado, had available several years ago, an excellent bulletin on the use of solenoid.

Post Office Box 97, Marquette, Michigan

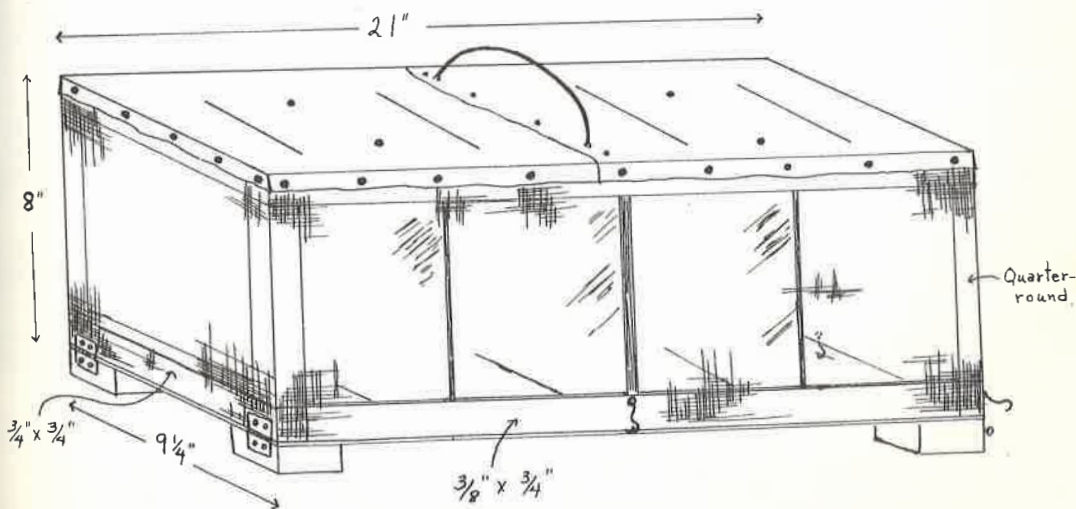


RUBBER TOP GATHERING CAGE

By Dorothy L. Bordner

For some time Mother and I have wanted to experiment with a rubber top gathering cage. Last fall we made one with four cells and tested it at IBOR. It proved to be very successful for us and others might want to try one.

There are advantages to this type of cage. Several individuals (of non-fighting species) can be held in a single cell without having one escape when another is put in or removed. Mother had 27 juncos in a single cell at IBOR with no escapes and no injuries. Even the crawling species such as nuthatches, creepers, and chickadees did not escape, but if the slits gapped very much I wouldn't trust them for too long a time. The rubber top prevents the scalp injuries that occur in hard top cages when birds (particularly thrushes) jump against the roof. Bill injuries are eliminated by the use of nylon screen. Having screen on all sides provides more ventilation than in a conventional cage.



Scrap materials were used for the most part and I am not a carpenter so I am sure better looking cages could be made. The dimensions can be varied as the bander wishes. Ours stacks nicely on top of our ten cell gathering cage, and the width was determined by the size of the piece of plywood I had available.

The center partition is half-inch plywood and the two side ones quarter-inch plywood. Heavier wood is used for the center one because the carrying handle of electrical cord is fastened to it. For the sides we used nylon screen which can be bought in various widths, and we used a strip long enough to go completely around the cage so that there would be no more seams than necessary.

Rubber from an old inner tube is used for the top. Because of the curved shape of the tube the rubber must be cut in two pieces, and it is fastened to the frame with upholstery tacks. Care must be taken not to stretch the rubber in fastening it, or the slits will gap. The length of the slits can be varied to suit the individual user. We found five inches to be completely satisfactory.

The floor is made of quarter-inch plywood and is hinged to the upper part at one end. The other end and the center are fastened with small screen door hooks. This arrangement allows the cage to be opened for cleaning. We have used part of a paper bag on the floor of the trap and replaced it periodically.

This cage has not been the best type for Evening Grosbeaks. Only one can be placed in a cell so it is not practical in terms of space used. Also, they have more chance of getting the bander when he is getting them!

926 West Beaver Avenue, State College, Pennsylvania



CHANGES MADE IN BANDING PLIERS

Changes have been made in the banding pliers supplied by Roger N. MacDonald (see Banding Pliers notice on page 143 under Bander's Aids) writes Mr. MacDonald. The changes have been made in the pliers to accomodate the bands made of the hard alloy, as well as the regular bands. This has necessitated the increase in price of the #2 and #3 band size pliers from \$5.00 to \$6.00.