

A BIRD BANDING BOX
By Mary A. Heimerdinger

These plans, drawn to the scale of $1/2" = 1"$, are for a bird banding box designed by Albert C. Lloyd for use either in the field (banding at net or trap sites) or in a permanent (indoor) location. During almost five years' intensive use at Powdermill Nature Reserve this basic design, with several modifications and improvements, has proved to be very useful. The box is light in weight, easy to carry, and resistant to rough use and weather. Most important, it is easy to use; the banding equipment is readily accessible, the various band sizes are kept separated in compartments, the tools and supplies are in other compartments, and there are two writing surfaces for record sheets.

The basic design consists of two boxes held together by a piano hinge and a strong catch (such as one of the variety of catches used for luggage). The over-all dimensions are $13\ 1/2"$ by $10\ 1/2"$ by $3"$. The side frames for both components and the bottom of one box are made of $1/2"$ pine for strength. The outside surface of the assembled box is covered with several coats of weather-resistant varnish.

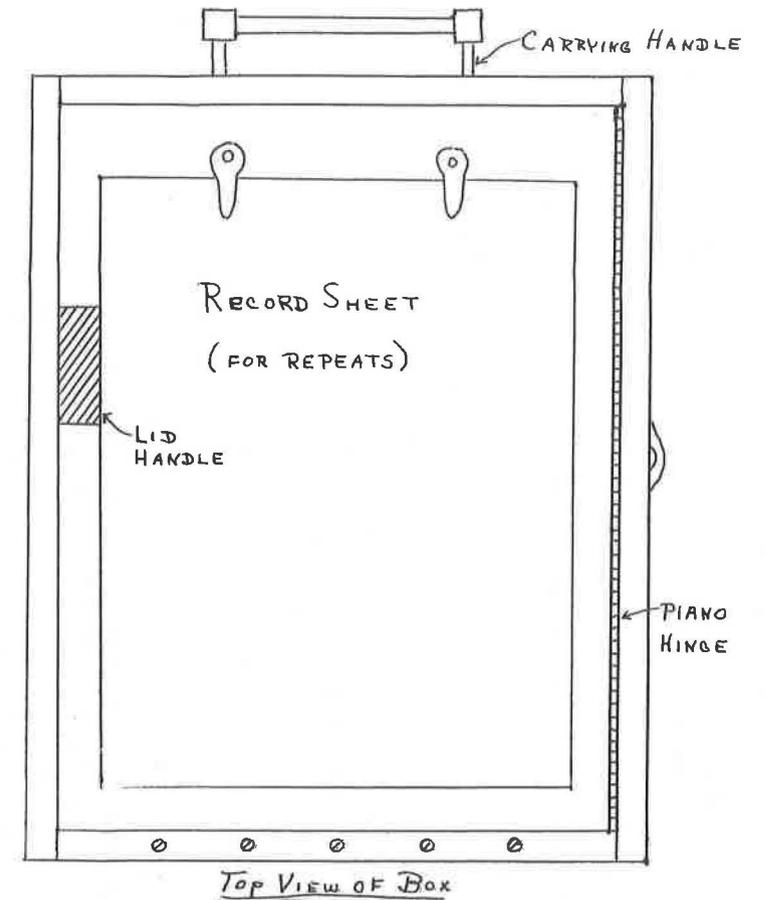
The bottom box is a single compartment $12\ 1/2"$ by $9\ 1/2"$ by $1"$ to hold supplies: extra record sheets, packages of bands, etc. Because this bottom box is only opened occasionally for supplies, it is held to the top box by a large and strong luggage catch; the extra trouble of opening this catch is well worth the insurance that it will not open accidentally in the field.

The top box is constructed with a $1/8"$ masonite floor and lid; both sides of the lid are smooth to offer a good writing surface, and fitted with narrow raised strips of wood to hold the edges of the record sheets. The record sheet for repeats is carried on the outside of the box, and that for new bandings on the inside. Thus when the box is opened to gain access to the bands and pliers, the inside of the lid acts as a small writing desk. The lid, held shut by a magnetic catch, is attached to the box by a strong piano hinge (which has proven to be able to take the pressure from the lid being used as a desk). The interior of the top box is lined with thin strips of wood (for the lid to rest on) and compartmented into nine ($3"$ by $3"$ by $1"$) compartments, one for each string of commonly used band sizes, and a long ($9"$ by $3"$ by $1"$) compartment for banding pliers, wing gauges, pens and pencils, etc.

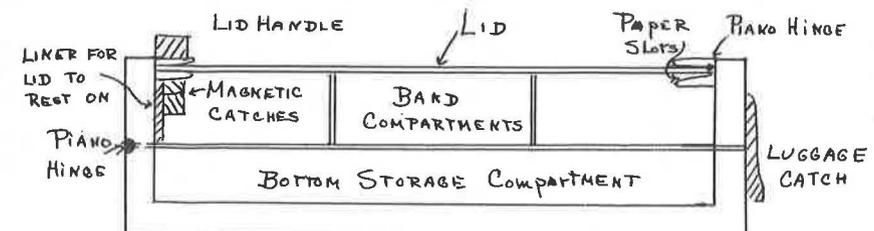
This box is equally useful when banding indoors at a desk or table. The only change in procedure is to remove the strings of bands from the compartments and wrap the wire from each around one of the brass screws inset along the bottom edge of the box. The bands thus hang down over the table edge and can be removed (by opening with the banding pliers) in the correct sequence, as needed.

Although the box designed by Mr. Lloyd was tailored to fit an $8\ 1/2"$ by $11"$ standard sheet of paper (for records) and strings of small bands (sizes X through 5), workers handling larger bands such as those for waterfowl could easily adapt this basic design with larger proportions.

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TOP VIEW OF BOX



X-SECTION OF BOX

