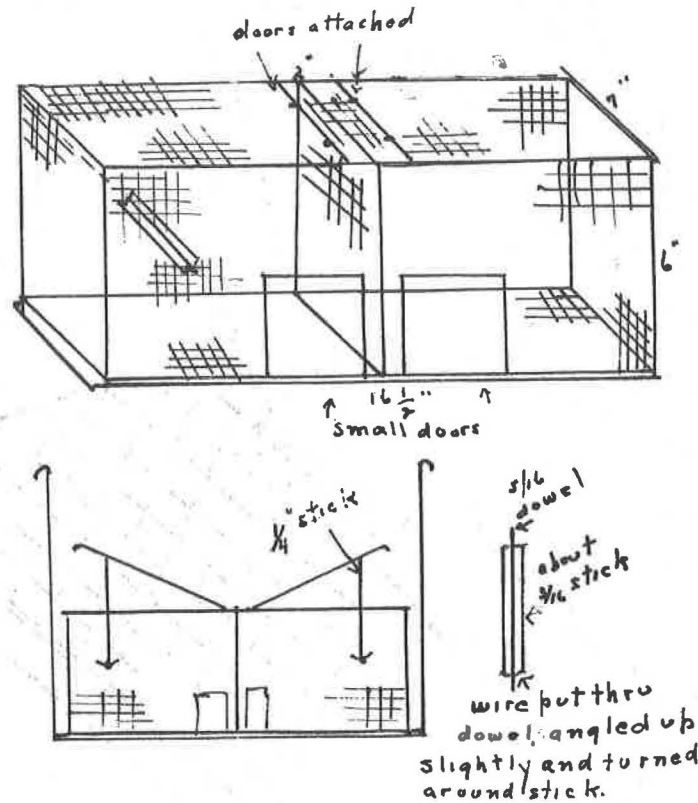


TWO SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE TRAPS

By Mrs. John Webb

Back in the late 1940's the Fish & Wildlife Service sent banders a bulletin suggesting adapting for their use a hanging bird trap common in Central America. From the description I worked out one which was quite successful, and this old trap and newer editions of it have become stand-bys for my back yard station. I haven't a record of species taken, but Chickadees find it irresistible and a partial list would include several kinds of sparrows, Goldfinches, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, Catbirds, Orioles, Downy Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and Titmice. Starlings and Blue Jays usually can bounce out, but the top could be weighted to prevent it.



This trap is a box made of $\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh hardware cloth with a wooden floor and a hinged top held open by a stick propped against the wire top and resting against the stable part of a revolving perch halfway down the trap. It can be made a single cell, or double as in the drawing. These traps can be hung in any convenient bush or from any tree limb low enough to

reach. Birds enter them very readily and the trigger arrangement is practically foolproof.

Doubling back an inch of wire around the top of the trap and the door itself gives it enough rigidity. A wire coat hanger straightened out with wires parallel and about three inches of the lower end turned at right angles to fasten under the trap makes a satisfactory hanging arrangement.

The second drawing, below, is of a trap which was the result of an attempt to replace two battered Potter traps of my own construction - it had an auspicious christening. I was asked to go to a nearby town and attempt to trap a questionable Clay-colored Sparrow for positive identification. I took several traps; the sparrow appeared on schedule, looked over the traps and to my dismay stepped into this untried one where it stopped and fed just in front of the trip step for what seemed an endless time. Holding our breath and willing it to move we watched it face around as if to come out, and then turn back and obligingly hop forward onto the trip step which, to my great relief, released the door as intended.

I think the drawing is self-explanatory. Exact dimensions are not too important. There should be about $\frac{1}{4}$ " clearance between the doors and the sides of the trap.

