

## ENVIRONMENTAL TRAPS

C. BROOKE WORTH

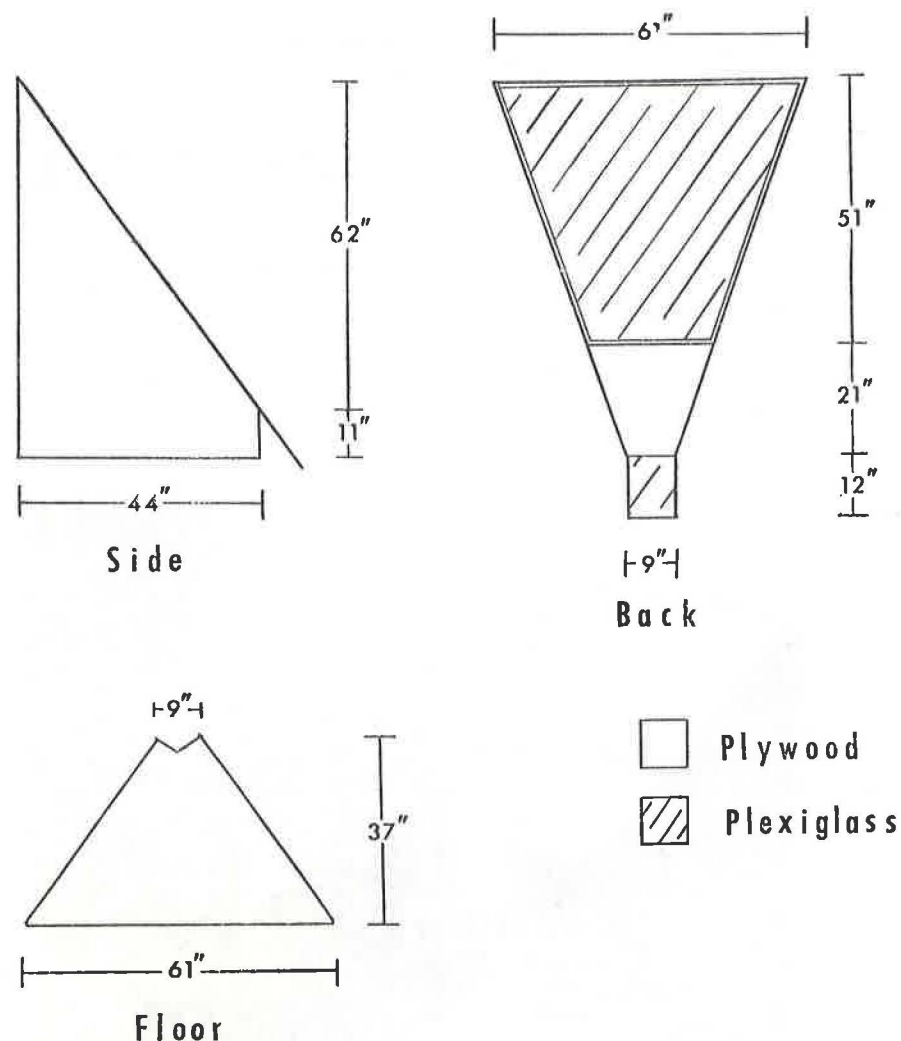


FIGURE TWO: Scale drawings with dimensions of the side, back, and floor of the funnel-scoop.

British and European banders have developed environmental traps to a far greater degree than in North America. These are described in the British publication, Trapping Methods For Bird Ringers. The Heligoland trap has been especially successful.

Our Manual For Bird Banders, of 1929 and 1947, figures a House Trap as a permanent structure, large enough for the bander to enter. This box-shaped object will work well (for its limited purposes) if used as directed. It should be made of 1/2-inch mesh hardware cloth and painted flat black (which goes for wire traps of any description). However, it is not a very imaginative creation. If, instead of a box, one builds a man-sized trap directly into irregularities of the environment, it is possible greatly to extend the uses of this type of device. The trap can include shrubbery, streamlets, slopes, or angular spaces of walls and buildings. All kinds of bait, including continuous water-drip arrangements, may be used. A variety of entrances can be provided, so that birds may enter at ground level (A), through top openings (B) or along tree trunks (C). Gathering cages should be provided at a corner of the trap where birds naturally congregate-- a high exit for those that tend to seek upward escape, and an ordinary Government sparrow trap at ground level for terrestrial species.

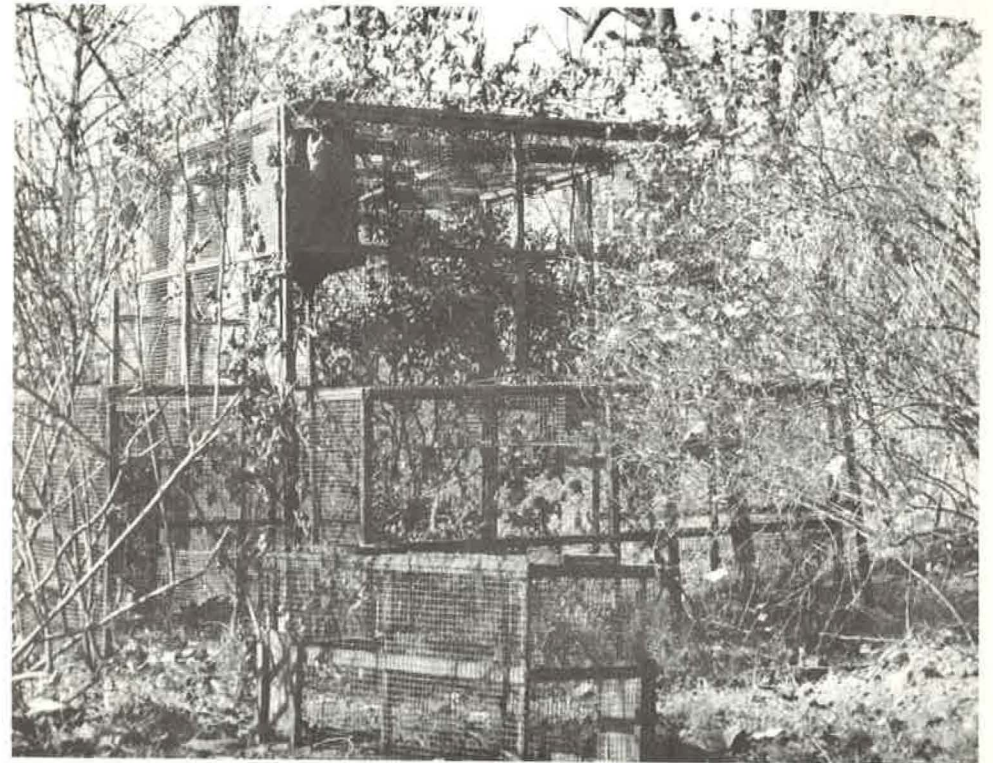
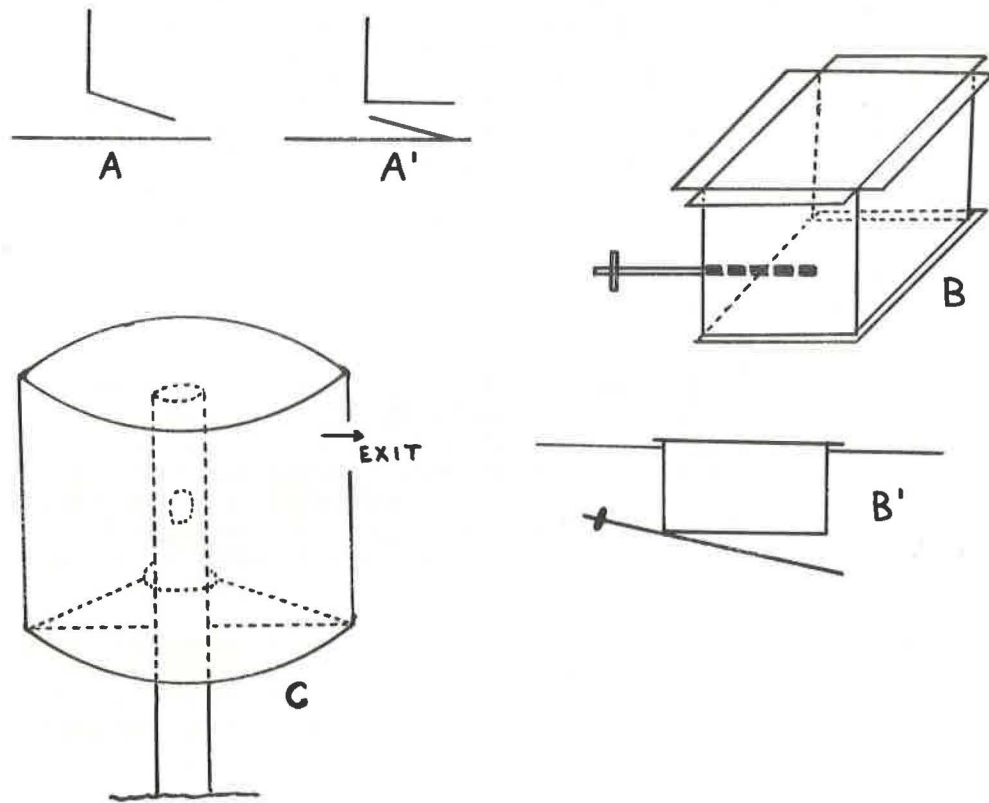
A. Rectangular ground openings can be fitted with wire-mesh funnels such as those pictured in the Manual for the Modified Government Sparrow Trap. Many birds learn to leave through the ground-level neck of the outer of these funnels; such trap-wise individuals can be captured for occasional checking by temporary substitution of a funnel of the inner type, with raised neck (A'), which prevents their escape and causes them to resort to the regular exit.

B. Square or rectangular openings can be cut into horizontal surfaces of the trap anywhere and fitted with box-shaped devices having counter-balanced false bottoms (as in the Brenckel Water-drip trap). An outwardly-bent collar keeps the device from falling

through the opening. A counterweight, balancing the hinged door-pan, can be adjusted, by moving it toward or away from the hinge, so that even the smallest bird will depress the pan (B'). The bird then enters the trap, and the door swings up, blocking its egress.

C. Suet will attract woodpeckers and nuthatches through a bottom funnel into a cylinder that leads on one side into the main part of the environmental trap.

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AN ENVIRONMENTAL TRAP