EBBA NEWS

Eastern Bird-Banding Association News Letter

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THE EASTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION
TRAPS

Some of the information received for the trap symposium is presented in this issue. Your Editor wishes to thank those who supplied material and to urge the rest of you to send in your contributions or comment when you can.

Jeff Gill of Huntington, Long Island, wrote twice on the subject; the first time as follows:

"I believe the days of small traps are past, except for those just beginning or for the banded who wishes to operate some substations with portable traps. By small traps I mean the single cell jobs.

However, if banded want single cell traps of the Potter type in which the door slides on runners it is ridiculous to pay fancy prices for them or even build one out of hardware cloth when it is so easy to build an excellent one in 20 minutes or less out of a used canary cage. I use six of these at a sub-station each Sunday morning for a few hours and find them excellent.

Canary cages are made in several shapes, circular, rectangle and another shape somewhat like a Gothic arch. The last two shapes lend themselves to conversion much better than the circular job. All that is needed to turn these cages into first class bird traps that will take all birds up to Flickors and Doves is a small length of bailing wire and a couple of pieces of hardware cloth about 6 inches square.

I will be happy to send any banded a Canary cage which they can convert themselves if they send me $1. to cover postage, packing and the cost of getting the cage.

It is easier to draw or make the changes in the trap than to describe them. In all canary cages there is a door that can be used as a take-out door, just as it is. The wire part of all cages is spot welded to a tin base. This tin base should be removed carefully and the extra small wire that is usually wrapped around the bottom of the trap should be removed. Then, on each end of the trap there is usually a place where a food container is fastened. One end should be blocked with a little wire and the other should be enlarged so that a bird can enter easily. This is done by removing 2 or 3 wires on each side. A trip step is attached to the base wire of the cage. This trip step has a trigger wire which holds the sliding door open when the trap is set. The door is made of a small piece of hardware cloth with rings so that it slides on the bars of the canary cage. If this is not clear see the sketch on page 3."