

# Building the better bird trap

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For the bander who likes to build gadgets, here is one which can be put together on one of those days when the birds aren't too active and time hangs heavily on your hands. It is called a Band-O-Lite.

Basically, the necessary parts include two size D batteries, a flashlight bulb and socket, a microswitch, and some wire — all of which can be obtained from a local electronic supply store, if they are not already lying around the house.

Simply put these parts together according to the diagram (Figure 1) and there you have it. When completed, this creation can be attached to a board on top of a net pole (Figure 2). Tie a thread to connect each trammel to the microswitch bar, making sure that each thread is taut. Then leave the area.

When a bird hits the net, its weight will pull the trammels down. This, in turn, will pull on the

threads and cause the microswitch to close, turning on the light. By adjusting the threads properly, the device can be made sensitive enough to detect a hummingbird in the net.

Anyone who uses mist nets can immediately see the advantages offered to the bander by this little gadget. It lets one know at a glance whether there is a bird in a net which may be too far away to detect otherwise. The longer a bird is in a net, the more difficult it is to remove; therefore, the sooner one can detect its presence, the better for both bird and bander. When cats are a problem, the Band-O-Lite is especially useful. Finally, for night banding, this little light can save many wasted trips to check nets. If traps are used, the Band-O-Lite can be attached to them as well — lighting when the door falls shut.

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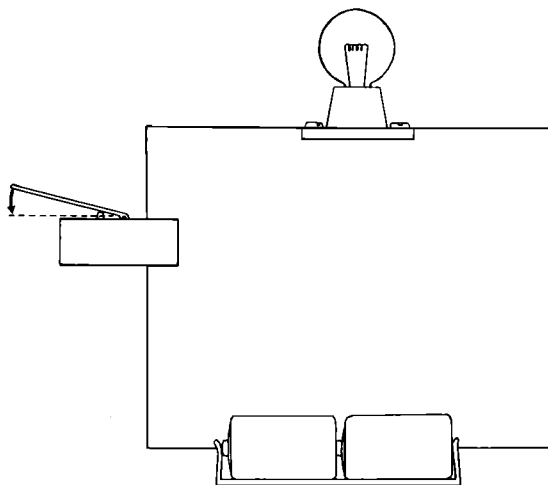


Figure 1. Band-O-Lite wiring diagram

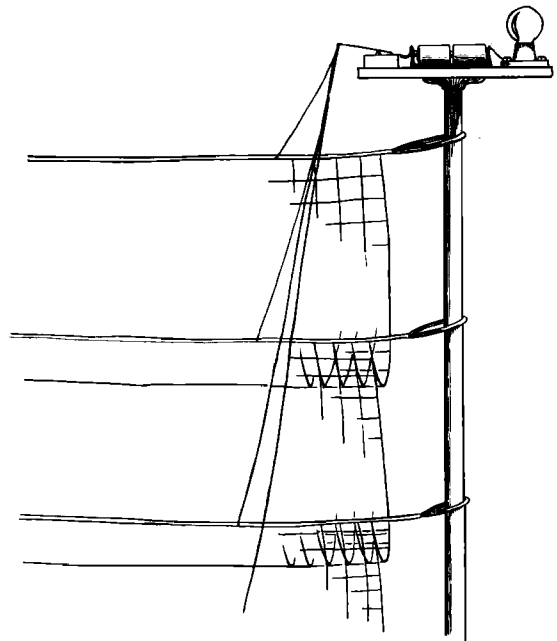


Figure 2. Band-O-Lite in place on net pole