



#### Lath drop trap pattern

(If you decide to try any of these traps I would like to know the results you obtain.)

#### COLORED BANDS

Seth Low sent the News a letter from Mr. Hervey Brackbill of Baltimore, Maryland, describing a problem which he has encountered with the new colored aluminum bands. Mr. Low would appreciate comment from other banders on this problem. Mr. Brackbill's letter follows: "I have been using some of the new metal color-bands ("gold" ones only) of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and since the Fish & Wildlife Service now recommends these, I thought you would be interested in hearing of a sort of fault that has come to light.

"On May 14, 1950, I banded an adult Blue Jay, placing the numbered band above a gold band on one leg. Yesterday, October 5, 1950 I saw this jay again for the first time, at very close range at my feeding shelf. In this space of five months the bouncing of the bands as the bird hopped had distinctly flattened the meeting edges of both bands — the upper edge of the gold band and the lower edge of the numbered one. Each had a "flange" that I would estimate at half a millimeter in width and depth. On a later occasion yesterday, and again today, I confirmed that observation.

"On the other hand, there came to my feeder this morning, October 6, 1950, a Starling that I had banded on May 1, 1950, with a gold band above the numbered band on one leg, and both of these bands were still in perfect condition. Starlings do not hop.

"This repeats the experience I had some years ago with aluminum color-bands of my own making. Before I knew either how to make or where to obtain celluloid bands, I made color-bands by cutting cheap

aluminum saucopans into little squares, shaping them around matchsticks, and then enameling them. That aluminum was very much thinner than the metal used in the Massachusetts Audubon Society bands, but even it, in time, would considerably flatten the edge of a numbered band used on the same leg of birds that hop (and, of course, would also be flattened itself). I remember that after a couple of years — two years, I think — a Chewink's No. 2 band was so flattened that part of the inscription on it was effaced.

"If I retrap any birds bearing flattened bands, I'll replace them and send you the specimens with data on length of wear — unless someone else has already done this, or you encounter some on your own birds. I have used quite a few on Robins, and a number on Catbirds and Song Sparrows, some of which ought to yield returns next spring, at least.

"The obvious suggestion that some further hardening of the metals, if that is possible, would at least slow down the flattening, is the only remedy I am able to suggest."

#### JUNCO SYMPOSIUM

Don't forget the Junco Symposium scheduled for the February issue. Much more material is needed to make this one successful. Data on weights, measurements, sexing, age determination, migration pattern, repeats, returns, etc. are all needed. But, material must be in your Editor's hands by January 20, 1951 — No later.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Frederick Greeley, 15-B University House, Eagle Heights, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

Mr. Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr., 190 Lakeside Rd., Ardmore, Penna.

#### NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome as a new member —

Mr. James R. Ellwood, Sheldon Rd., R. D. #2  
Valencia, Pennsylvania

The Editor apologizes for the lateness of this issue — but the Christmas Season caught up with him —