

HOW THEY DO IT

Being Hints for New Banders (and Reminders for Veterans) from back issues of EBBA NEWS

A WOODPECKER TRAP by Merrill Wood (Jan-Feb 1957, p. 7): While attending the April 1956 meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association I was convinced that I should have a woodpecker trap, but the lack of a suitable large tree prevented the construction of a trap like the one exhibited by Dr. Paul H. Fluck (EBBA NEWS 1954 17(5):6-7). This resulted in the idea of combining a horizontal suet log as used in the Washington Crossing Park with a Geoffrey Gill Trip-step Trap.



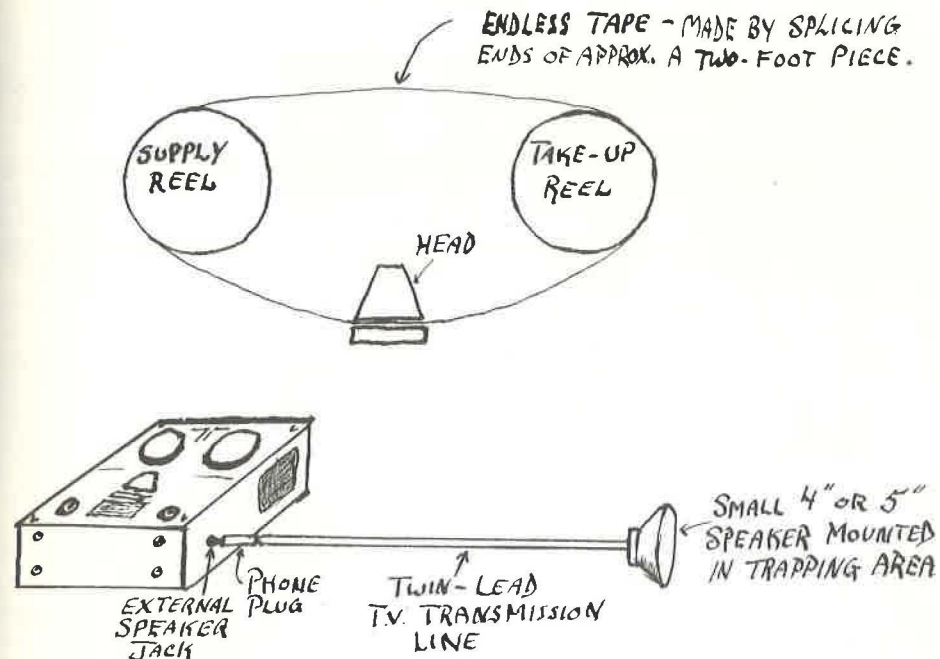
A pine log, 60 inches long with a diameter of 6 inches, held 40 inches above the ground by two iron fence posts, provides the floor for a trip-step trap placed at one end. To hold suet a square two-inch hole with a depth of one inch was placed inside the trap. This device has proved effective for suet-eating birds.

RECORDING IN REVERSE by Edward M. Noll (July-August 1956, p. 47): If you are interested in using sound to attract birds and have a tape recorder available we can tell you a simple way to make an endless belt arrangement of a particular song or call. A small section of tape is removed from a reel and its ends are scotch-taped together. Just enough tape is used to permit insertion of the tape through the tape heads, take-up reel, and supply reel. When the recorder is turned on the tape should move continuously. You may have to experiment with amount of tape used to obtain a smooth motion. Our own recorder needed a 26 inch length.

A bird song or other sound can now be recorded on this small section of tape (from bird recording or other sources). On playback this sound will be repeated time after time as long as you wish to play it.

Notice also that your tape recorder has a jack labeled external speaker (EXT. SPKR.). If you purchase a small speaker and some regular television lead-in wire you can place speaker in your trap or other suitable location and play what you have recorded on small piece of tape. For example you can record song of a Goldfinch and play the call for long periods of time from your trapping area.

-- (See illustration on following page) --



Small speaker and TV wire can be purchased from Lafayette Radio, 100 Sixth Ave., New York, N.Y. The same company has many electronic control kits available and other gadgets that might lend themselves to banding. A 5 inch speaker can be purchased for less than \$2.00; twin lead television wire for about \$2.00 per hundred feet, and phone plug for about 50¢.

BARRELS FOR GULLS by Geoffrey Gill (Sept-Oct 1958, p. 79): An open barrel, standing on end, with a 3 or 4 inch board across the top baited with an old fish, will trap adult gulls at a dump. Attach a cord to the board on which the piece of fish has been placed and carry this string to a spot at some distance. When the gull alights on the board, quickly pull the string so that the gull falls into the barrel. The bird's wing-spread will prevent it from flying out of the barrel. BANDING NESTLINGS by Geoff Gill (same issue): When banding a nest full of young birds and the birds refuse to be returned to the nest, don't keep climbing up and down the tree in the hope that they will stay put. Take a carrot basket for birds such as robins, a smaller basket for smaller birds, and place the nest and the birds in the basket and tie the whole thing in place up the tree as near the original nest site as possible. The parent bird will continue to feed the young in the basket after the fuss subsides. By the time the young can clamber out of the basket they will be larger and in better shape to avoid ever present danger from cats and dogs.



The closed tips of the manicure scissors approach the band.



The band opens slowly. Note tips curved upward away from the leg.

REMOVING OVERLAPPED BANDS by Mrs. Frank L. Townsend (July-August 1957):
Every now and then, when you are applying pressure to close a band tightly, it will overlap. This often happens when the band is unevenly opened and it is extremely hard to remove, as it is now pressed tightly against the leg. A very satisfactory method to remove an overlapped band, or one that is too tight, is to use a pair of manicure scissors.

Hold the band with your fingers and slip the tips of the manicure scissors, with the tips curved upward away from the leg, under the band and open slowly. This method will work on all smaller bands. The curved tips prevent injury to the leg and also grip the band while opening. Straight scissors, no matter how small, are likely to slip out.