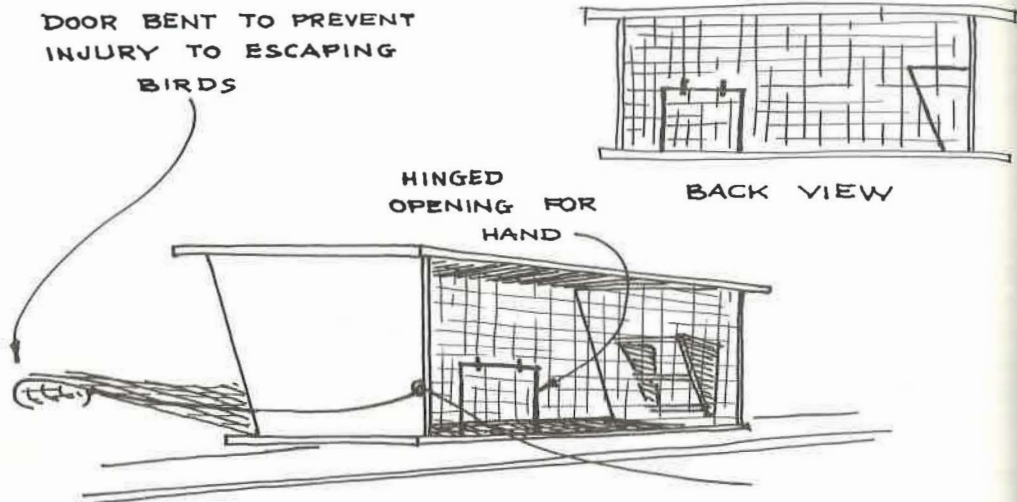


WINDOW FEEDER TRAP

By Ann Shreve

Three years ago when I received my banding permit, I impatiently converted our Bishop window feeder into an efficient trap by adding hardware cloth to front and back as shown in the sketch.



It is an excellent trap for a bander with a case of beginner's nerves as the birds are relatively free of fright. The door may be closed quietly and birds are unaware that they are trapped until the window is raised. I might mention, too, the delights of banding indoors on a cold, snowy day. I always release birds through another window so that the trapping area is disturbed as little as possible.

An upstairs window on the sheltered side of the house is the best location. The window should be raised just enough to allow the string to be pulled freely. The door is left open, serving as a perch, for free feeding at all times so the birds become accustomed to coming into the trap. When I am reading or doing housework upstairs, I tie the pull string to a table or chair leg to keep it taut, ready for trapping.

Some of the birds taken in this trap are Red-bellied Woodpecker, Bluebird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Myrtle Warbler. As many as 6 Purple Finches have been trapped at one time. It is baited with peanut butter, suet and sunflower seed.

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