

## TRAPS ON A BOARD FOR RAIN OR SNOW

By Ralph K. Bell

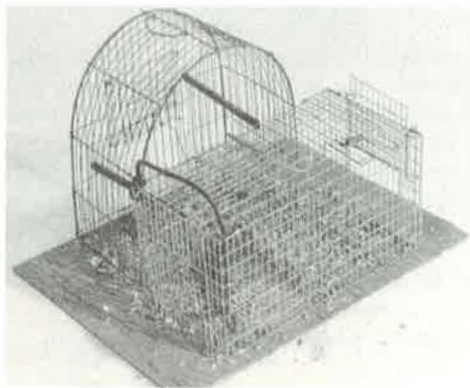
Will mouldy feed endanger the life of a bird? I'm not sure, but I do my best to see that they don't get any spoiled feed at any of my feeders or traps.

A recent news release from Kansas State University sheds some light on the subject. The article says, in part: "...mycotoxins are poisonous substances which can be produced by molds under certain conditions. The most potent of the mycotoxins is aflatoxin. Dr. Paul Sanford, KSU poultry scientist, said feed known to contain mycotoxins, when fed to laying hens, will cause a sharp drop in egg production and an increase in mortality of birds."

One of the reasons I like the water-drip traps so well is because they catch birds readily with no other bait required. A little grain is used sparingly in the water-drip traps in the spring and fall but never in the summer as spoilage is much worse in warm, damp weather. Another good reason for not using a lot of bait on the ground is that it attracts rodents.

Some banders use large feeders on a pipe with a roof that is high enough to accomodate traps and I have often wished that I had that kind of set-up. Lacking a spacious feeder and not wanting to put grain on the ground to get wet or, in winter, covered with snow, a plywood board large enough to hold one or more traps seemed to be the logical answer. It was tried and the arrangement really works. The whole thing is carried and placed under a lean-to ground feeder (where feed is always used sparingly) whenever it rains or snows. In good weather it is placed under the main feeder where birds normally look for food that is scratched out from the feeder above. Every bander knows that many birds prefer to feed on the ground and the traps are ready for them in a minute's time whenever one is able to do some banding for his research projects. Each night the whole

works is carried into my workshop, where it is safe from weather and rats.



The picture shows the board and traps on top of a new snowfall ready to go to work. The 2-cell is one of Walter Bigger's and the other is a Canary cage converted into a single celled trap with a regular Potter-type trip door. This isn't my idea: it was written up in the Oct. 1951 EBBA News by Jeff Gill.

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