

POPULAR TRAP DESIGNS

Compiled by Fred S. Schaeffer, Editor

WE HAVE ENOUGH TRAP DESIGNS IN PAST ISSUES OF EBBA NEWS TO FILL A BOOK. IN ADDITION, WE CAN OBTAIN PERMISSION TO REPRINT TRAP CONSTRUCTION AND USE ARTICLES THAT APPEARED IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS. BANDING HAS COME A LONG WAY IN THE FEW DECADES IT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE, BUT TRAPS HAVE BEEN MUCH LESS POPULAR IN THE LAST DECADE. NOW THAT NETS ARE GROWING GRADUALLY MORE EXPENSIVE, BESIDES HAVING A SHORT LIFE, EBBA NEWS HOPES TO REVIVE THE USE OF TRAPS. TRAPS CAN LAST A LIFETIME WHEN PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED. THEY'RE ALSO MUCH SAFER IN USE AND NEED LESS SUPERVISION THAN DO NETS.

SOME YEARS AGO, A GERMAN BIRD BANDER, HANS BUB, WROTE HIS WORLD-FAMOUS "VOGELFANG UND VOGELBERINGUNG"; UNFORTUNATELY, THIS MOST COMPLETE WORK ON TRAPPING BIRDS FOR BANDING PURPOSES IS WRITTEN IN HIS NATIVE TONGUE. EVEN MORE REGRETTABLE IS THE FACT THAT THE AUTHOR HAS NOT EXTENDED HIS PERMISSION TO EBBA NEWS TO ALLOW US TO REPRINT SOME OF THE INOVATIVE FOREIGN TRAP DESIGNS. HIS BOOK IS PROTECTED BY INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT. IT IS HIS HOPE TO TRANSLATE THE BOOK INTO ENGLISH, BUT THIS HOPE HAS NOT YET BEEN REALIZED DUE TO THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING VOLUNTEERS TO TRANSLATE THE WORK.

THUS, OUR REPERTOIR IS RATHER LIMITED TO REPRINTS FROM OUR OWN MAGAZINE, AND REPRINTS FROM OTHER AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT VOL. 2 OF THE BIRD-BANDING MANUAL WILL INCLUDE HOPEFULLY COMPLETE REVIEWS OF TRAP DESIGNS, AND ALTHOUGH THIS MANUAL IS IN PREPARATION, IT'S COMPLETION MAY TAKE YEARS. WHILE THIS PREPARATION IS ONGOING, EBBA NEWS SHOULD SERVE ITS READERS BY INCLUDING IN EACH FUTURE ISSUE AT LEAST ONE TRAP DESIGN. IF ANY OF YOU KNOW OF TRAP DESIGNS IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME SO THAT I CAN PROCEED TO CONTACT THE EDITOR OF THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT PERMISSION TO REPRINT. IF ANY OF YOU HAVE SOME UNPUBLISHED TRAP DESIGNS, TRAPS AS WELL AS DESIGNS OF NETS (OTHER THAN THE STANDARD MIST-NET), WE'RE MOST EAGER TO HAVE THEM.

IF YOU'RE EAGER TO READ ABOUT TRAP DESIGNS, AND MANY HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU PAY YOUR DUES ON TIME, SO THAT YOU DON'T MISS ANY OF THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES.

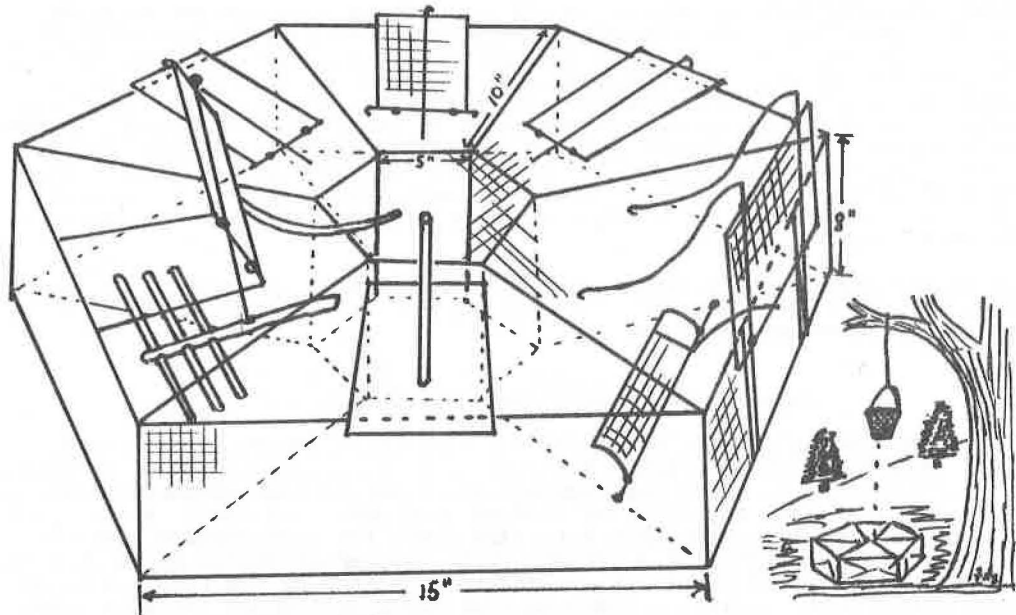
THE BRENCKLE WATER-DRIP TRAP
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"BIRD BANDING NOTES", ISSUED BY THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY, IN DECEMBER, 1931, ANNOUNCED THE NOW FAMOUS BRENCKLE TRAP, SUGGESTED BY DR. J. F. BRENCKLE OF NORTHVILLE, S.D. SINCE THEN BANDING HAS ENROLLED MANY NEWCOMERS, AND, IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL REQUESTS, WE FEATURE THIS TRAP THIS MONTH. WHILE NOT A NEW TRAP, CERTAIN CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS: HACKSAW BLADES OR A SPRINGY METAL INSTEAD OF RUBBER BANDS ON EACH DOOR AS MORE WEATHER RESISTANT; A WIRE LOCK ON EACH OF THE LIGHT DOORS TO HOLD LARGER BIRDS INSIDE; A CIRCULAR WIRE PERCH JUST ABOVE THE OPEN DOORS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL SPRINGING BY PERCHING BIRDS, AND A TRIP-STEP ARRANGEMENT ON AT LEAST ONE GROUND-OPENING COMPARTMENT AS SOME BIRDS WILL WALK AROUND AND AROUND INSTEAD OF ENTERING THROUGH THE TOP-OPENINGS.

OF THE SEVERAL WAYS TO BUILD THIS TRAP, EBBA SUGGESTS ONE OF THE SIMPLEST. MATERIALS: 8 FT. 1/2" MESH HARDWARE-CLOTH, 3 FT. WIDE; 10 FT. #9 GAUGE WIRE AND 6 OR MORE WIRE COATHANGERS. COST OF MATERIALS ABOUT \$1.25*. TOOLS: TIN-SNIPS, A PAIR OF POINTED NOSE AND A PAIR OF SQUARE NOSE PLIERS. TIME: ABOUT 16 HOURS.

FIRST: LAY THE HARDWARE-CLOTH FLAT AND SNIP A 92" STRIP OFF 8" WIDE, CUTTING CLOSE TO A PARALLEL WIRE SO THAT THE NEXT STRIP WILL HAVE A FRINGE OF 1/2" WIRES. THIS STRIP WILL HAVE A SALVAGE EDGE WHICH IS TO BE THE TOP EDGE OF THE OUTSIDE OF THE TRAP. NEXT SNIP THREE LENGTHS 25" LONG BY 8" WIDE, AGAIN CUTTING CLOSE TO A PARALLEL CROSS WIRE. BEND THESE 25" STRIPS SO THAT EACH FORMS A 'U' SHAPE PIECE, ALL CORNERS SQUARE WITH UPRIGHTS OF 10" EACH. NEXT CUT THREE PIECES OF HARDWARE-CLOTH 8" BY 5", SO THAT THEY HAVE A FRINGE ON THREE SIDES. PLACE THE THREE 'U'S IN APPROXIMATE POSITIONS SHOWN IN ILLUSTRATION AND WEAVE THE 8X5 PIECES IN BETWEEN THE U'S, BENDING THE FRINGE ONE AT A TIME THROUGH THE ADJACENT MESH. BE SURE THE FRINGE ON ALL U'S ARE ON TOP AND SMOOTH EDGES TO THE BOTTOM. WHEN THIS IS DONE YOU WILL HAVE SOMETHING RESEMBLING THE PADDLES ON AN OLD WATERMILL.

NOW TAKE YOUR LONG 8" STRIP THAT YOU CUT OFF FIRST, FOR THIS IS THE RIM TO YOUR WHEEL. FASTEN IT SO THAT EACH SPOKE IS 15" APART. THIS CAN BE DONE WITH LENGTHS OF FINE WIRE OR BY WEAVING. IT WILL GO ALL THE WAY AROUND AND LAP AN INCH OR SO. THE TRAP CAN BE BUILT EITHER CIRCULAR OR AS SHOWN. CIRCULAR IS PERHAPS EASIER. NEXT TAKE A PIECE OF NO.9 GAUGE WIRE, ABOUT 93" LONG AND BIND TO THE OUTSIDE AND BOTTOM OF THE TRAP FOR STRENGTHENING. NEXT TAKE YOUR REMAINING HARDWARE CLOTH AND WITH THE SELVAGE EDGE RUNNING THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE TRAP, COVER HALF OF THE TOP. FASTEN IT IN PLACE BY BENDING DOWN ONE OR TWO OF THE TOP PROTRUDING FRINGES AND THEN



THE BRECKLE WATER DRIP TRAP
 (*) COST NOW MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE.

SNIP OFF YOUR EXCESS HARDWARE-CLOTH LEAVING ABOUT 1/2" LAP OVER THE EDGE, JUST AS A BAKER WOULD TRIM OFF EXCESS DOUGH ON A PIE. WEAVE ALL THE FRINGES DOWN ON THE TOP AND THE EDGES. REPEAT THE PROCESS FOR THE OTHER HALF OF THE TOP OF THE TRAP, PLACING THE TWO SELVAGE EDGES TOGETHER.

YOU ARE NOW READY TO SNIP OUT THE DOORWAYS. THE TOP OPENINGS SHOULD BE 5" WIDE AND 6" DEEP. IN CUTTING DOORWAYS, BE CAREFUL TO CUT LESS THAN THESE MEASUREMENTS SO THAT YOU CAN BEND THE WIRE BACK TO THE OPENING DESIRED AND GET A SMOOTH EDGE ON ALL OPENINGS. THE CUT IN ONE OR TWO GROUND OPENINGS SHOULD BE 6" HIGH BY 10" WIDE. DON'T CUT THE BASE NO.9 WIRE.

THE TOP DOORS ARE MADE A LITTLE LARGER THAN THE OPENINGS AND SHOULD OVERHANG THE OUTSIDE BY AT LEAST 1/2". MAKE THE DOORS WITH COATHANGER WIRE FRAMES, AGAIN IN THE SHAPE OF A 'U', THE UPRIGHTS TO END IN A LITTLE RING FOR THE AXLE WIRE. CUT HARDWARE-CLOTH LARGER THAN THE U AND WRAP IT OVER THE FRAME TIGHTLY. THE AXLE IS ALSO COATHANGER WIRE AND EASILY FASTENS IN THE MESH OF THE TOP OF THE TRAP. THE UPRIGHT WIRE MAKING CONTACT WITH THE PERCH IS LACED TO THE UNDERSIDE OF THE DOOR AND IS ALSO COAT-HANGER WIRE. A HOOK SHOULD BE MADE AT THE TOP OF THE DOOR SO THAT THE DOOR, ONCE CLOSED WILL STAY PUT. TIME SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE ADJUSTMENTS SO THAT YOU ARE SURE ALL DOORS WORK AS PLANNED. FOR PERCHES CONSULT PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE NEWS. HACKSAW BLADES ARE WIRED ON THE TOP OF THE TRAP THROUGH ONE HOLE IN THE END WITH OCCASIONALLY A SECOND FASTENING AN INCH OR TWO BEHIND THE DOOR. THE OTHER END SHOULD BE FREE.

SLIDING DOORS FOR THE GROUND OPENING COMPARTMENTS ARE SIMPLE AFFAIRS MADE OF HARDWARE-CLOTH WITH COAT-HANGER WIRE FRAMES, SLIDING ON RUNNERS OF THE SAME TYPE OF WIRE. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MAKE THE DOOR LARGER ALL AROUND THAN THE OPENING AND THE RUNNERS TALL ENOUGH SO THAT THE DOOR WILL LIFT UP TO THE DESIRED HEIGHT.

WHEN THIS IS COMPLETED OPEN ALL TOP DOORS AND MAKE A RING FROM THE REMAINING NO.9 WIRE FOR A CIRCULAR PERCH JUST ABOVE THE TOPS OF THE OPEN DOORS. WIND COAT-HANGER WIRE OF THE NECESSARY LENGTH FOR UPRIGHTS IN THREE OR FOUR PLACES ON THIS RING. WRAP THE COAT-HANGER WIRE AROUND THE NO.9 SEVERAL TIMES SO THAT IT GETS A GOOD TIGHT GRIP. FASTEN THE UPRIGHTS IN PLACE, THEN PAINT THE WHOLE CONTRAPTION GREEN AND YOU'VE GOT IT.

