

# Banding at the window

Thomas Mutchler

At the urging of several of our officers, I offer this idea to our apartment-dwelling banders.

My wife and I moved to a second-floor apartment 9 months ago. After receiving permission from the owners of the building (an important step), I built two feeders to the size of the window frames, hung them with "L" brackets and set up feeding stations. Within a short time, summering finches found the feeders.

I should state that this apartment is at the side of a lake, deep in the forest. Even before our state permits were cleared, 62 Evening Grosbeaks were counted as they fed at one time. From 1 January to 28 February, 103 Evening Grosbeaks, 61 Black-capped Chickadees, 17 American Goldfinches, 13 White-breasted Nuthatches, 7 Tufted Titmice, and 1 Pine Siskin were banded.

We were away during the month of March.

30 March brought a flock of 27 Common Redpolls and the Potter traps were again opened. We used one 2-celled trap at one window and one 3-celled at the other.

In the first 10 days of April, we had banded an additional 22 Evening Grosbeaks, 4 White-breasted Nuthatches, 3 Black-capped Chickadees, 12 Pine Siskins, and some newcomers: 10 Purple Finches (one retrap—we had banded it in Bethlehem, PA 3 months before we moved), 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, and—would you believe—1 Dark-eyed Junco.

## To construct a simple window feeder:

You need: 2 boards either 1" x 4" or 2" x 4", the width of the window frame.

5 boards (the same size and at least 12" long (I used 24").

Hardware wire or cloth large enough to cover the frame.

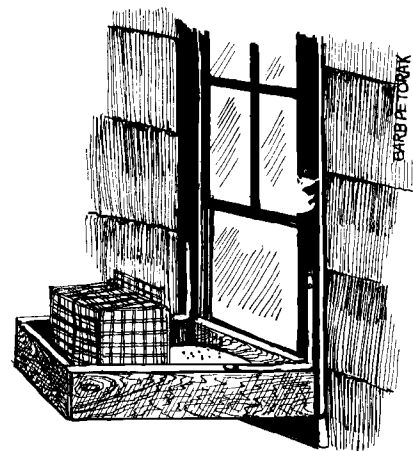
Screening large enough to cover the frame.

Nails or long staples.

Two 12" L braces.

## To construct frame:

Nail together the 2 boards—window-sized—and 2 of the 12" boards to form a rectangle using the 4" as depth.



## Bottom:

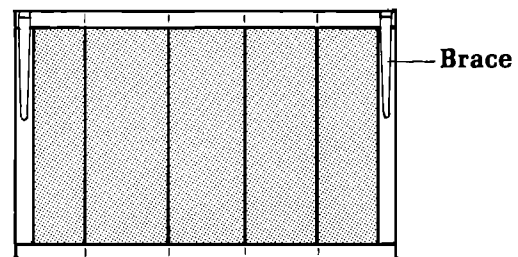
Cover the entire opening with screening. Cover the screening with the hardware cloth or mesh wire (this supports the screening). Fasten both the screening and the hardware cloth securely to the frame with nails or staples.

## For extra support:

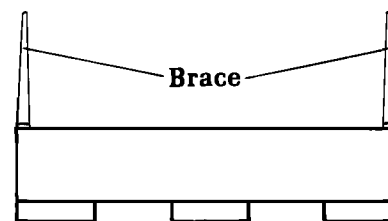
Nail the remaining three boards over the wire bottom, broad side down—one on each end and one in the middle.

## Attachment:

Turn the feeder right side up and attach the L braces, one on each side of the feeder (the side that will fit against the window frame). Position the L brace so that it will make flat contact with the window frame. ☞



Top view



Front view

RD 1, Box 212X, Monticello, NY 12701