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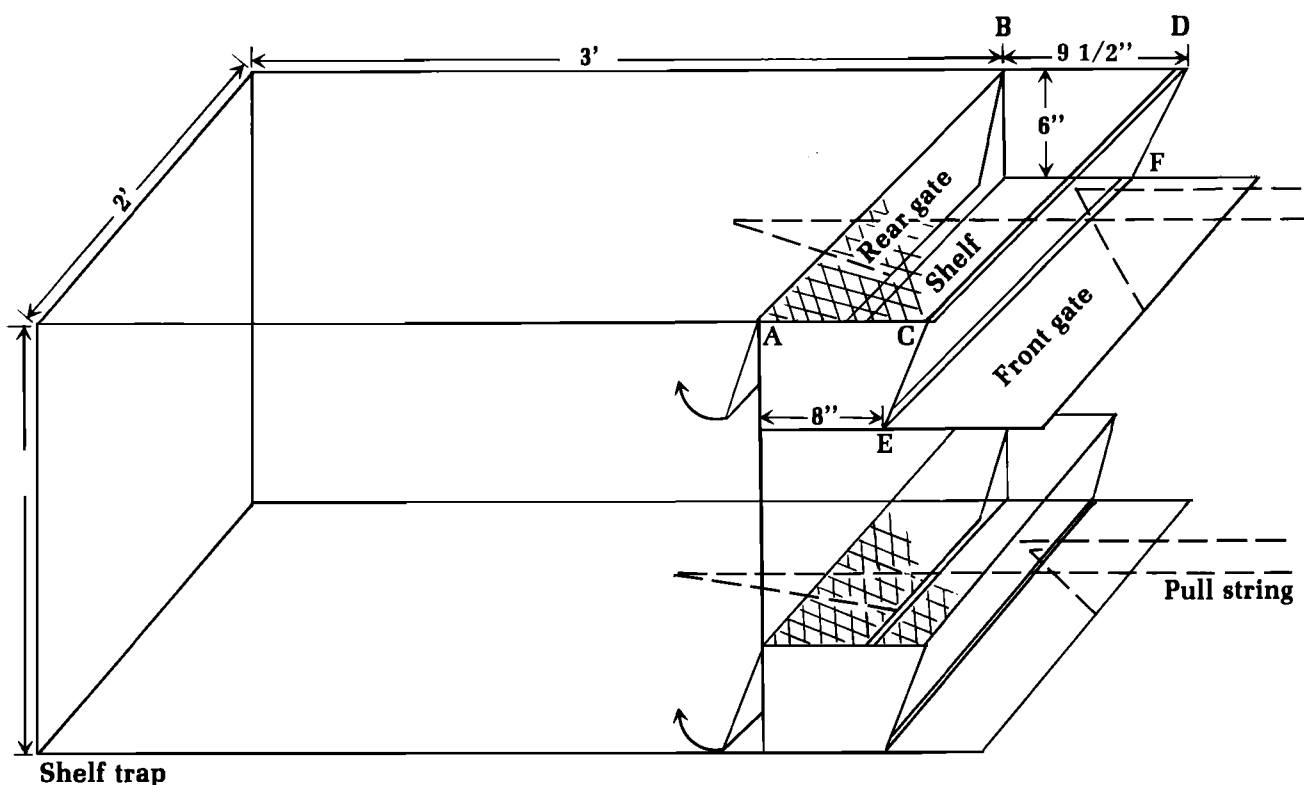
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A simple pole and mirror device

Dwight G. Smith and Douglas A. Spencer

In our studies of breeding bird populations of suburban developments in Hamden, Connecticut, we frequently needed to examine nests located on buildings, yard structures, or planted trees and shrubs. Parker (1972, *Bird-Banding* 43:216-218) solved a somewhat similar problem in his study of raptor nests by constructing a mirror and pole apparatus which consisted of six-foot sections attached to a telescoping unit. Parker's device is undoubtedly excellent, but we required an apparatus which was rapid, efficient, and — for backyard use — inconspicuous.

Ultimately we constructed a device consisting of a telescoping swimming pool pole, manufactured by Hunt-Wilde Corporation (price \$10) and a six-inch diameter shaving mirror purchased for \$3. The mirror is attached, magnifying side at a 90° angle facing downward, by a stainless steel clamp fasten-

ed with two holes drilled into the pole. We used colored tape to mark quarter-foot intervals on the pole, thereby allowing us to measure nest heights. The telescoping pole may be extended and twist-locked to a maximum of 12 feet. A normal sized individual is therefore able to examine nests to a maximum height of 21 feet. Although this proved fully satisfactory for our needs, longer poles are on the market for purchase.

We have successfully used this device over the summer breeding season. Disturbance of birds was minimal and most species quickly adapted to our weekly examination of nest contents. It also proved useful in determining when the young were suitably old enough to be banded.

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