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An Easy-to Regulate Water Dripper

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Plastic tubing and valves used for intravenous feeding are used at every hospital and discarded after use. These can often be obtained on request and can be used to construct an easily regulated water dripper for attracting birds to trapping station.

One end of the tubing is inserted about 1 cm into a plastic milk bottle at the lowest point of the bottle when hung from the handle. The hole for the tubing is made with an awl or similar device and should be slightly

smaller than the plastic tubing. A small hole is punched in the bottle near the cap to allow air to enter. The valve on the tubing is a roller which can be moved to increase or decrease the pressure on the tubing thereby regulating the rate of dripping. Clean water should be used to prevent clogging of the valve.

The drops should land in a water bath. Pine Siskins (*Carduelis tristis*) seem to have a special fondness for water dripping from a tube. They sometimes land on the tube and work their way down to the emerging drops. Once I had three siskins on the nearly vertical tube working their way down for a drink.

