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# A Hanging Cylinder Funnel Trap

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Funnel traps of various designs have been used for capturing birds for banding for many years (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1977 and Mutchler, 1977). These traps are usually positioned on the ground, favoring ground-feeding birds rather than arboreal feeders. However, I wanted an above ground trap that used a thistle feeder inside it as an attractant and designed the following hanging cylinder funnel trap (Figure 1). The entrances through which the birds enter are 2½ inches in diameter, 3 each on 2 opposite sides, directly above each other. I found that I could not construct entrances too close to the top or bottom of the trap because captured birds attempted to escape there.

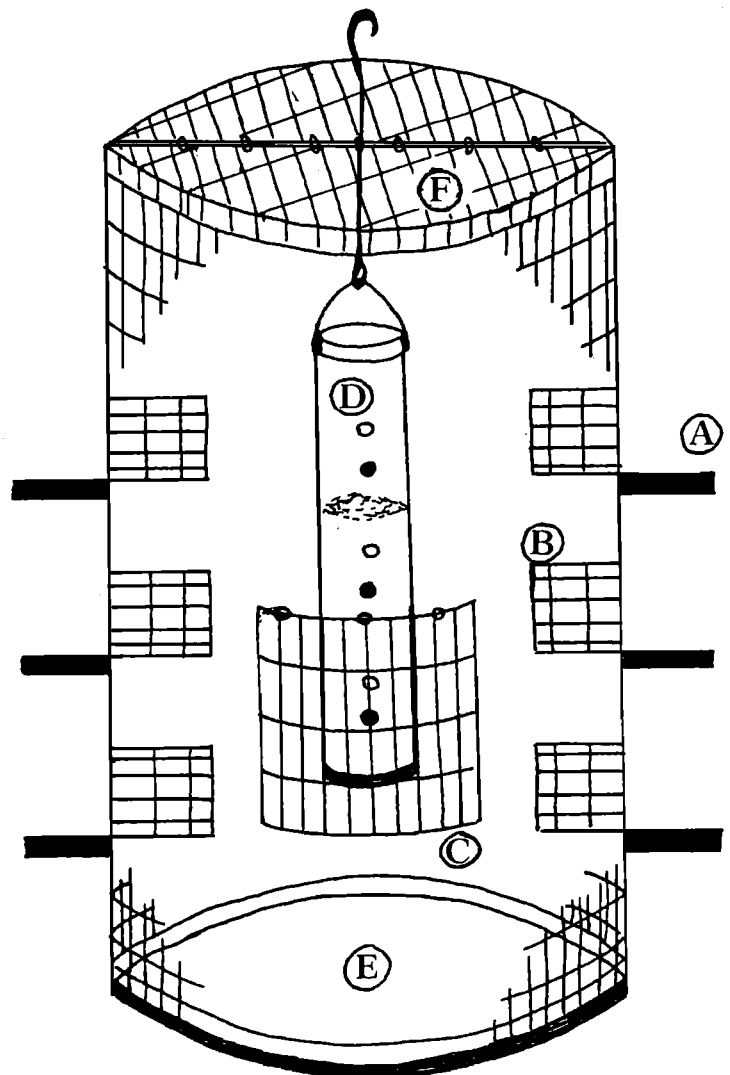
American goldfinches and pine siskins readily entered the trap to feed on niger seeds in the tube feeder. The birds easily found the entrances after the perches were added. When all the feeder's perches were occupied, birds fed on the seeds on the bottom of the trap. On 5 April, 1985 I removed 25 pine siskins at one time and 19 at another. Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*), goldfinches (*C. tristis*), and black-capped chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) were often in the trap at the same time.

I also tried with a tube feeder full of black sunflower seeds. It was very successful in catching purple finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) and chickadees. The sunflower-baited trap was also successful in capturing white-breasted nuthatches (*Sitta carolinensis*) when the trap was hung against a tree with the entrances and perches next to the tree trunk. The weight of the trap may make it difficult to hang up. The trap worked when placed on the ground under the location of the tube feeder.

Removing birds from the trap takes some practice. Goldfinches and siskins fly against the sides of the trap and go to the top or bottom where they are more easily caught. Chickadees, on the other hand, are difficult to catch as they continuously fly about the trap and the feeder may get in the way. A gathering cage made near the bottom of the trap could help in removing birds.

Figure 1. Hanging cylinder funnel trap (2 feet high) made of ½ × 1 inch welded wire.

- A. Perch at base of funnel entrance.
- B. Funnel entrance 2½ inches long and 2½ inches diameter.
- C. Side door (5 × 5 inches) for removing trapped birds.
- D. Tube feeder with niger or sunflower seeds and perches oriented 90 degree to trap entrances.
- E. Solid plywood bottom (15 inch diameter) with ridge to keep seeds in.
- F. Hinged top for removing feeders.



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Birds are able to get out of any funnel trap occasionally and this trap is no exception. At first the orientation of the feeder perches towards the trap entrances was not carefully watched. When the feeder perches are directly in front of the entrances, the birds enter, hop on a perch, take a seed, turn around, and fly out of the entrance. When the feeder perches are oriented 90 degrees from the trap entrances, rapid bird exits are minimized. Upon arrival the birds try to escape and I place rags in each entrance to prevent escape. An alternative method involves experimenting with the length and diameter of the funnels. However, as the funnels are lengthened they get closer to the feeder. Reducing the diameter of entrances may reduce captures of different sized finches.

Good results may be obtained by using variations in trap size, feeder size, and bait. A smaller trap version would probably work well for chickadees.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Harv Halvorsen and Dick Thiel for review of drafts of this paper.

### Literature Cited

- United States Fish & Wildlife Service. 1977. North American Bird Banding Manual, Volume II. U.S.F. & W.S., Washington, D.C.  
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# Fall Migration of Passerine Birds in Ohio: A Co-Operative Study by the Ohio Bird Banding Association

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## Introduction

As a group, the Ohio Bird Banding Association (O.B.B.A.) decided to study the fall migration patterns of passerine birds in Ohio. We were interested in the timing of migration and the numbers of birds migrating through Ohio, since no previous study for the state exists. In this paper we present fall migration data on passerine birds in Ohio between 1981 and 1983 and discuss the timing of migration as it relates to their ecology. We also discuss the problems associated with a joint research project of this type.

## Methods

The banding sites used in this study were located in a variety of habitats: scrub willow and cottonwood on the shores of Lake Erie, old fields, beech-maple forest edge, and suburban backyards. The number of banders contributing information each year varied from 8 to 12. Half of the banders participating in this study were located in the counties bordering Lake Erie (Figure 1).

Participants banded whenever feasible between 15 August and 15 November, 1981 through 1983. Standardized forms were provided for recording data. All migratory species were tabulated for each week, and the number of birds captured per 100 net hours was determined (1982-83 only). Non migratory species were not included in the birds per 100 net hour totals.

## Results and Discussion

Ohio banders whose banding stations are located in counties bordering Lake Erie captured more birds per unit effort ( $X = 249.2 \pm 99.4$  birds/hundred net hr) than did those in central ( $X = 28.0 \pm 8.0$ ) and southern ( $X = 29.1 \pm 20.9$ ) counties. We believe that this difference in capture rate is due to the presence of Lake Erie. The birds remain in the northern counties to rest from the long trip over the open water, not unlike the phenomenon that occurs at Point Pelee in spring (Livingston 1974).