



Trap cages: A husbandry tool for passerines

Andy Van Laan, Asst. Lead Keeper; Lincoln Park Zoo





#### Stress Reduction

- Target bird
- Other birds
- Keepers





#### Stress Reduction

- Target bird
- Other birds
- Keepers
- Visitor Experience
  - Can trap any time of day
  - Keeper interaction with guests





#### Fewer Staff

- 1 keeper for trapping
- 2 keepers for removing birds





- Fewer Staff
  - 1 keeper for trapping
  - 2 keepers for removing birds
- Low setup time
  - Compared to netting
  - Compared to mist netting







#### Free Flight Area

Dimensions: 50' x 50' x 30'





#### Free Flight Area

- Dimensions: 50' x 50' x 30'
- Features
  - Three level waterfall, 2 pool water system
  - Naturally planted
  - Multi-tier, different substrates

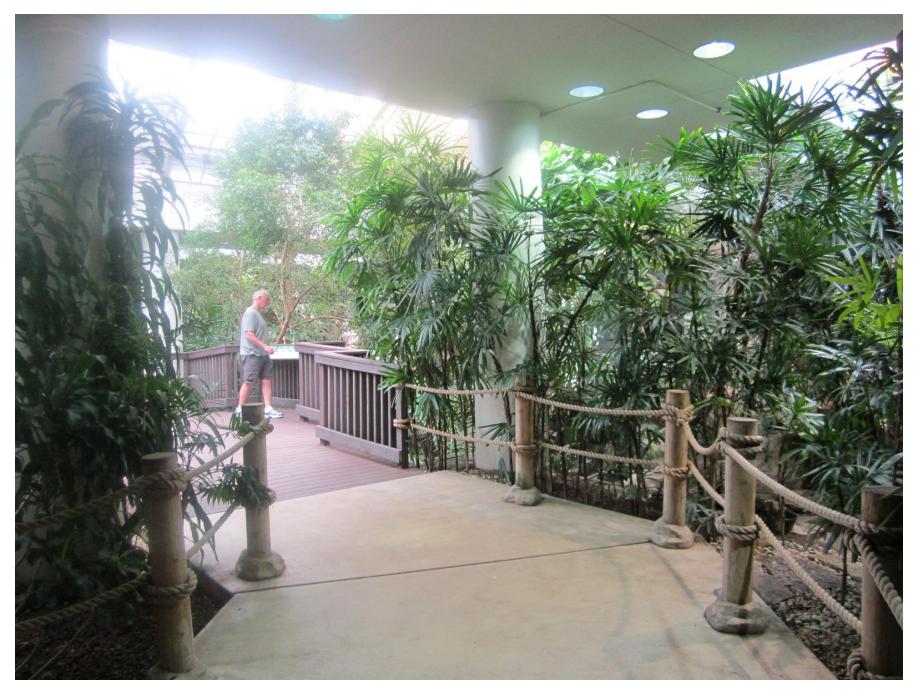




#### Free Flight Area

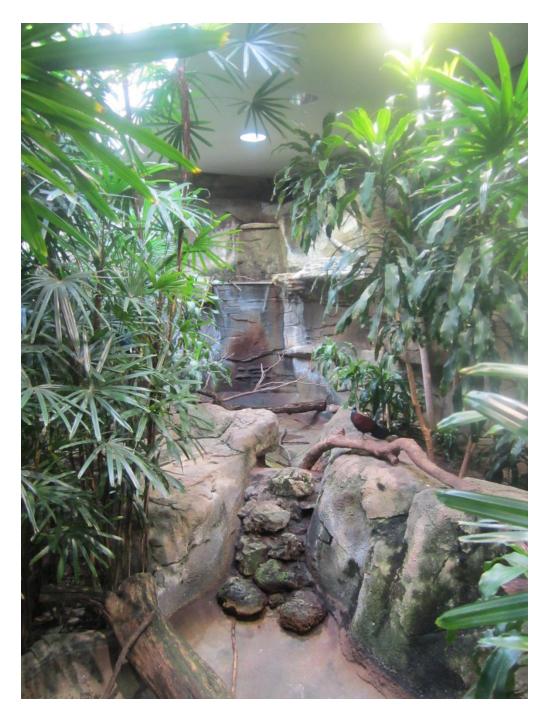
- Dimensions: 50' x 50' x 30'
- Features
  - Three level waterfall, 2 pool water system
  - Naturally planted
  - Multi-tier, different substrates
- Species
  - 15 20 species
  - 5 10 species breeding seasonally







## Lincoln Park Zoo





#### **Tropical Forest**

Dimensions: 20' x 15' x 15'





#### **Tropical Forest**

- Dimensions: 20' x 15' x 15'
- Features
  - Waterfall and pool
  - Heavily planted





#### **Tropical Forest**

- Dimensions: 20' x 15' x 15'
- Features
  - Waterfall and pool
  - Heavily planted
- Species
  - 4 species
  - Fairy Bluebird, Jambu Fruit Dove, Crested Wood Partridge Lesser Green Broadbill













#### Keys to successful trapping

- Trap cages remain in exhibit
  - Exclusive food spot
- Gradual start of trapping program
  - Food bowls on top of trap cages
- Very few birds will not use trap cages



#### **Trapping Procedure**

- Day before setup
  - Set trap cage in "active" position
  - Not necessary, but helpful





#### Trapping Procedure

- Day before setup
  - Set trap cage in "active" position
  - Not necessary, but helpful
- Small stick with a string
  - Baling twine, natural stick







#### **Trapping Procedure**

- Day before setup
  - Set trap cage in "active" position
  - Not necessary, but helpful
- Small stick with a string
  - Baling twine, natural stick
- Preparations for trapping
  - Have everything ready to go to minimize time in cage











## Tricks for successful trapping

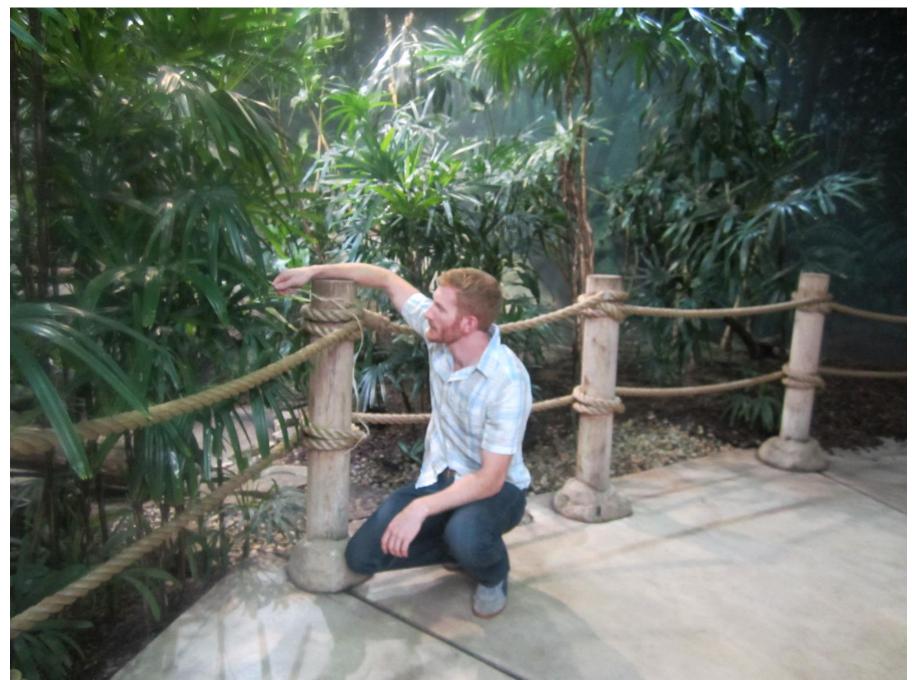




# Be Patient!



# Be Sneaky!





#### Tricks for successful trapping



- Change it up
  - Time of day
  - Bait
    - Preferred food items
    - Bird's mate
  - Location



# Trap happy vs. trap wise

- Trap happy
  - White lined tanager
  - Pekin Robins
- Trap wise
  - Golden breasted Starling
  - Inca Tern





## **Species List**

Fairy Bluebird

Jambu Fruit dove

LG Broadbill

Red-legged

honeycreeper

Green woodhoopoe

**Emerald starling** 

Bourke's parrot

Bleeding heart dove

**GB** starling

Bali mynah

**BG** tanager

WL tanager

RC cardinal

Hamerkop

Inca tern

Kikuyu white-eye

C. Wood Partridge

Mandarin duck

Nicobar pigeon

Sunbittern

**BC** Motmot

**CFB Bulbul** 

Pheasant pigeon

Pekin robin

BC laughingthrush

Kookaburra

BF honeyeater

M. Kingfisher

Hooded merganser

**Pintail** 

Ruddy duck



#### Trap cages make basic husbandry easier

- Bill and nail trims
- Weights
- Banding or re-banding
- Before our trapping program started, some birds caught only once a year





# ... and they also help when things go wrong.





## How to make a passerine trap cage





# Lincoln Park | How to make a passerine trap cage

#### **Dimensions**

- Top, bottom, front, and back
  - 24" x 18"
- Left and right
  - 18" x 18"
- Door
  - 10" x 10"





### Trap cage supply list

Supply	Price
2 rolls (2' x 5') vinyl coated hardware cloth \$10 ea.	\$20
J clips (\$6/lb.) and pliers (\$18)	\$1
Magnet hardware	\$1
Total	\$22







#### Putting a trap cage together

- Use J-clips to secure panels together
- Cut the door hole (10" x 10") towards the side of the front panel
- Secure door with J-clips or Hog rings
- Install magnets with cable ties to secure door once it swings shut
- You've built yourself a trap cage!

