



# Trap cages: A husbandry tool for passerines

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

Why do we trap?



# Why do we trap?

- Stress Reduction
  - Target bird
  - Other birds
  - Keepers



# Why do we trap?

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



# Why do we trap?

- Fewer Staff
  - 1 keeper for trapping
  - 2 keepers for removing birds



# Why do we trap?

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





Where do we trap?

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## Free Flight Area

- Dimensions: 50' x 50' x 30'





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  - Three level waterfall, 2 pool water system
  - Naturally planted
  - Multi-tier, different substrates



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  - Three level waterfall, 2 pool water system
  - Naturally planted
  - Multi-tier, different substrates
- Species
  - 15 – 20 species
  - 5 – 10 species breeding seasonally









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## 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











How do we trap?

# How do we trap?



## 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

# How do we trap?

## Trapping Procedure

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



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  - Baling twine, natural stick





# How do we trap?

## 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



Hey! I know what  
you're up to!

# 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



# 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22</b>



# 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!



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Questions?