

# Afring News

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Afring News accepts papers containing ringing information about birds. This includes interesting ringing trips, interesting captures, faunistic observations relating to ringing, analyses of ringing data, and reports of projects and conferences that had a ringing component.

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## A HANGING BIRD FEEDER TRAP

### A Pickles

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## A HANGING BIRD FEEDER TRAP

*A Pickles*

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This trap has been used successfully to catch mannikins at a bird feeder. The trap is manually controlled from a remote location using a piece of string/thin rope. I have had great success with the trap as it remains in place at all times, and can be used even when the wind is blowing.

Step 1. Make three rings using "bloudraad or some equivalent wire. Two of these rings are 48cm in diameter and one is 53cm in diameter.



Fig. 1. Bottom ring

Step 2. Using chicken mesh cover the larger ring and 1 of the smaller rings: these form the top and bottom of the trap.

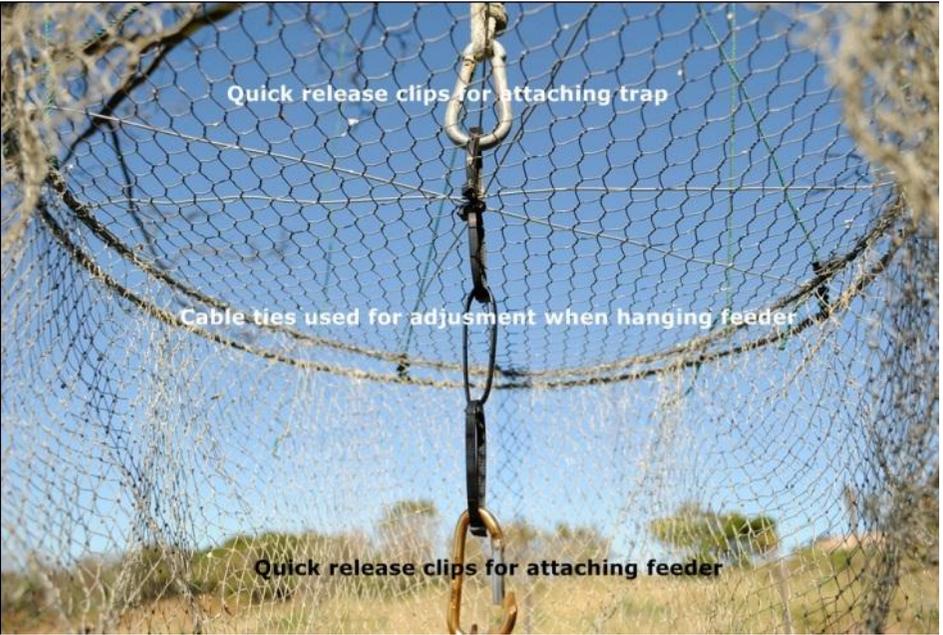
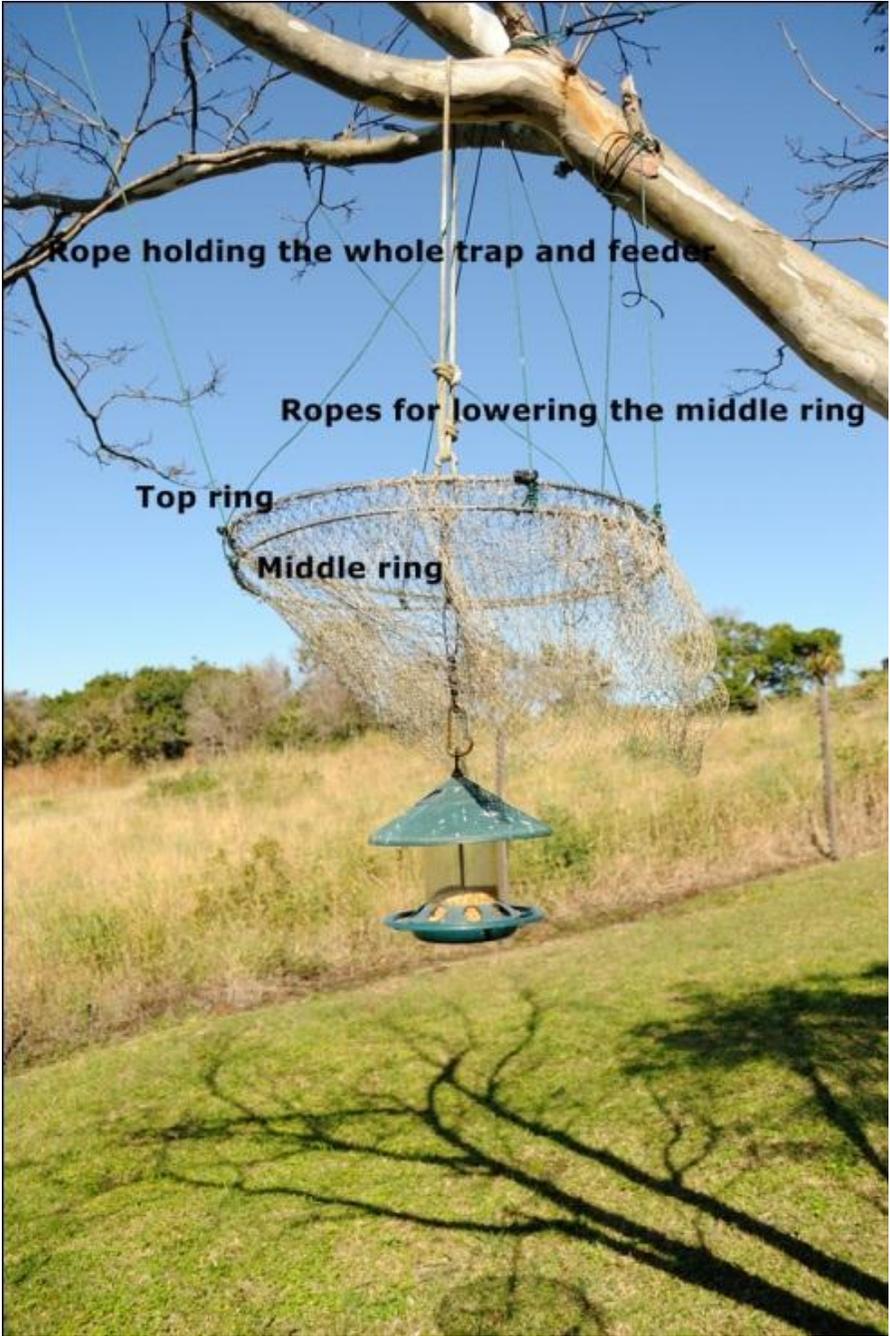
Step 3. Attach a border on the top of the larger ring using some old pipe (hose pipe or polycarb water pipe). This serves as a ledge to prevent the middle ring from moving off the trap when birds are inside. This was a modification that I made when most of the birds were flying inside the trap and causing it to move off the base.

Step 4. On the smaller ring with the meshing on (the top of the trap) attach two straight pieces of wire to find the center point for hanging purposes.

Step 5. Measure and cut some netting (I used an old cast net) and attach it to the top ring and the other 48cm diameter ring. This effectively becomes like a mosquito net with larger holes.

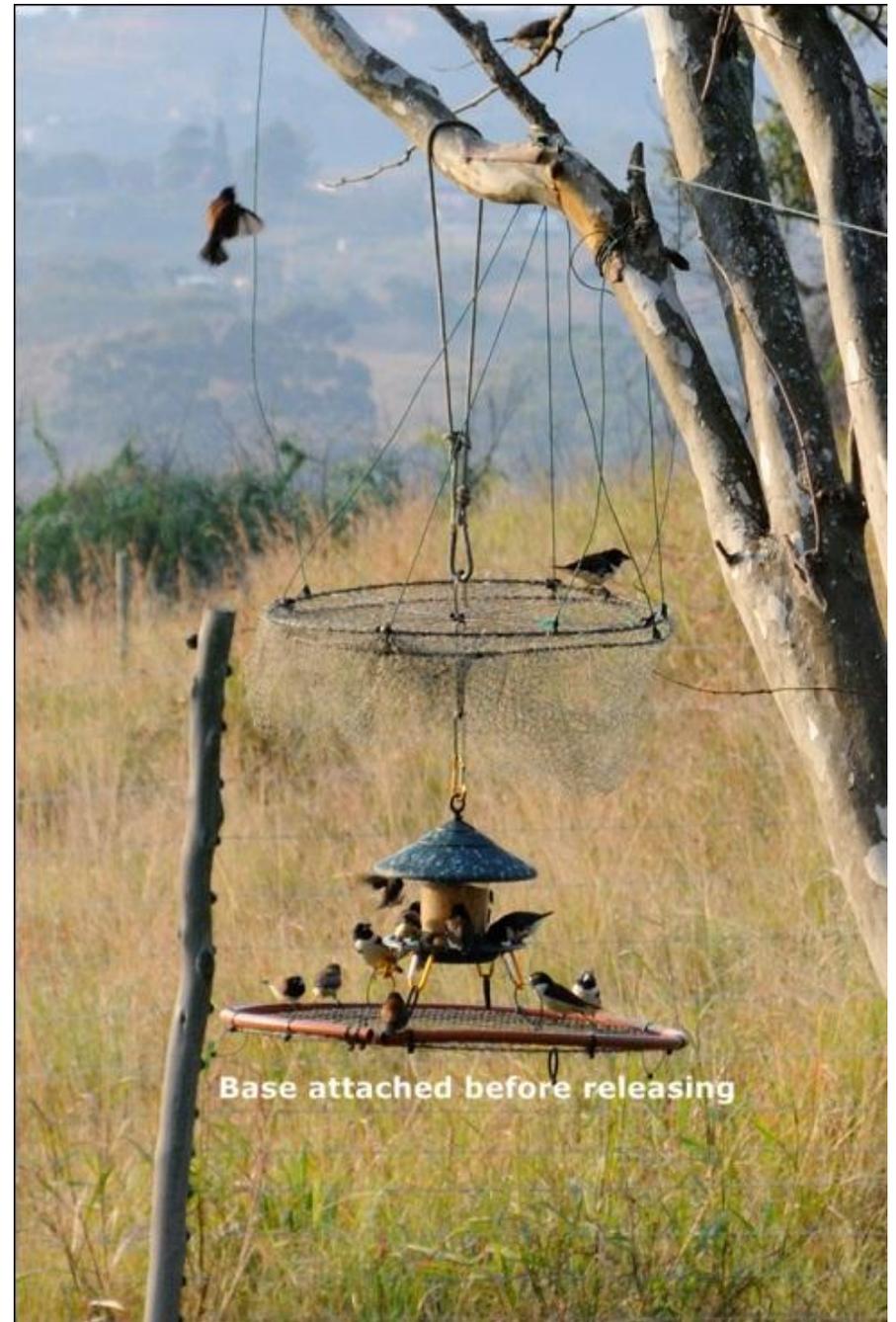
Step 6. You now have the basic net and it can be hung in the desired spot. Once this is done you can attach nylon string to the ring on the bottom of the net and take it over the top and down the other side, this can be done to match the support that was put on the top meshing. Using cable ties make guides for the rope to slide through on the top ring. You now have two equal strings going over the top (make sure that the net drops all the way down) and where they cross tie a long piece of string to that point and take it upwards and then to the point where you will be releasing it from.

For hanging purposes I use quick release clips so if need be it can be removed altogether. I also use cable ties a lot for adjustment reasons. If need be, rope can be attached to the bottom ring and then to pegs in the ground to prevent it from swaying too much in the wind.





Rope attaching the middle ring (release system)



Base attached before releasing