

## TECHNIQUES

### GENERAL PURPOSE KEEP

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The ideas for the bird-keep described below were based on the keeps already in use by the Rand Wader Ringing Group. It was decided that the keep should be collapsible to make transportation easier and to allow the keep to be deeper once erected. The increased depth was found very useful for accommodating the taller waders. The keep was also found suitable for holding small birds such as weavers. With this versatility in mind, we felt that the details of the keep might be of interest to other ringers.

The construction is straightforward and should present no difficulty to anyone wishing to make one of similar design; joints are silver soldered.

### Material List:

Hardware : 8 gauge wire (galvanized\*) length required : 7,85 metres.

$\frac{1}{2}$ " square Weldmesh, size required : 600mm x 800mm

$\frac{1}{4}$ " outside diameter Bandy Tubing : 4 pieces @ 60mm long.

Software : Surround material : 1900mm x 450mm Showerproof gaberdine type material.

Top: 30mm ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ " ) Shrimp netting : 650mm diameter

\* Note : the keep here described was made using non-galvanized wire, using galvanized wire will probably increase its life, but care must be taken when silver soldering joints to avoid inhaling the fumes

SEE PAGE 39 FOR CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAMS

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### WING-TAGGING ROCK PIGEONS

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### Introduction

In recent years, the roof tops of the University buildings have been regularly used as breeding sites for the Rock Pigeon Columba guinea. Over 100 nests were accessible and a study of breeding success in this urbanised population was begun in 1972/73. It was found necessary to mark adult birds to monitor factors such as the incidence of double-brooding, and the success of individuals from year to year. It was also anticipated that territorial behaviour might be looked at.

In the Transvaal, the species has become increasingly important