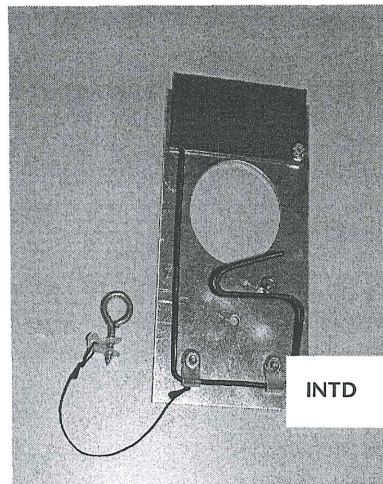
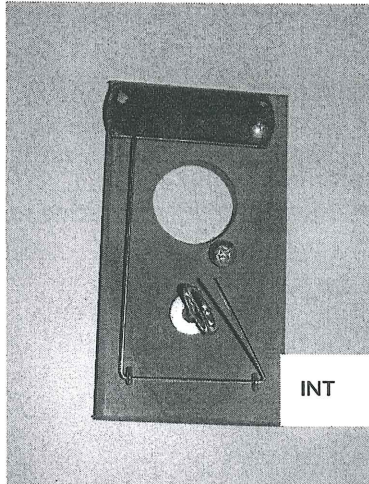


# Bluebird Box Insert Trap

## Mounting and Operating Instructions



absolutely necessary. Once the insert trap is firmly screwed into position, set the trapping mechanism.

**Setting the Trap:** To set the trapping mechanism, the 4" long vertical metal wire should be positioned so that it holds the brightly painted metal shutter just over the top of the entrance hole. The slightly curved end of this vertical wire needs to be just under the bottom edge of the shutter, as shown in both photos. The screw holding the shutter may need to be adjusted so that it will fall freely. When a bird enters the nest box, it will brush against or land on the section of wire located below the entrance hole and cause the wire to pivot forward, making the metal shutter drop down over the entrance hole, trapping the bird. (For shipping purposes, the portion of the wire located below the entrance hole may be flattened against the trap; before using the trap, hold the vertical wire against the trap and pull the trigger section of wire out so that there is approximately 2-1/2" to 3" between the end of the trigger and the entrance hole.) The outside of the shutter is brightly painted to alert an onlooker from a distance that the trap has been tripped. The portion of the entrance hole left exposed above the shutter is there for a reason: the trapped bird will constantly try to escape through the light of this opening, pushing *down* on the shutter, instead of up.

Thank you for purchasing this product from the PMCA. Your purchase helps support the education, conservation, and research projects of the PMCA. We're glad to have you as a partner in martin conservation, and hope this product will give you many seasons of use.

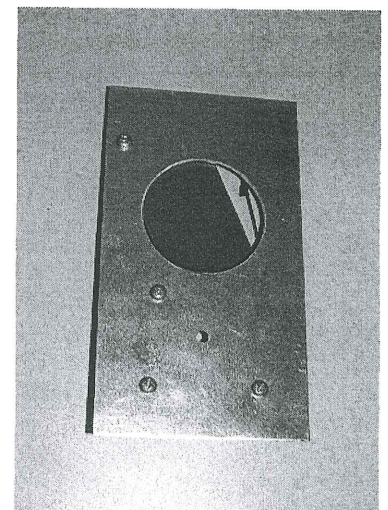
This insert trap will fit inside any wooden bluebird-style nest box that will accommodate its 3-1/4" X 6" dimensions, with the entrance holes aligned. It does not matter if the entrance holes of the trap and your bluebird box don't have identical dimensions.

**Before You Begin:** In a nest box where you wish to trap a House Sparrow that has a nest, first remove some of their nesting material so that it won't interfere with the wire tripping arms. House Sparrow nests typically contain lots of straw and feathers, and are built all the way to the ceiling of the box. House Sparrow eggs are tan/olive with lots of speckles. On the other hand, Tree Swallow nests also contain lots of grasses and feathers, but their eggs are pure white. The nest of an Eastern Bluebird is also made of fine straw or grass, but their eggs are a solid light blue or occasionally, pure white. It is important to identify the nest and eggs as a House Sparrow's; removal of a native bird's nest is illegal.

**Mounting the Trap in the Bluebird Box:** As the name implies, these traps go *inside* a bluebird box, with the side of the trap *lacking* hardware flush against the wall of the nest box containing the entrance hole. Position the trap vertically, with the shutter towards the top of the box and the holes aligned. Holding the trap firmly against this wall of the box, begin turning the thumbscrew into the wood. It helps if a pilot hole has been drilled in the nest box first, but this is not



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**Checking the Trap and Removing the Bird:** Since these traps may capture non-target birds, you should check your boxes every hour. If you are going to be away for several hours or longer, do not leave the trap armed. You could accidentally trap a native bird, which could die in the trap during your absence. To remove a House Sparrow so that it does not escape, put a large transparent bag over the entire nest box. Open the lid or door and the sparrow will fly out into the bag. Be sure you can tell the difference between a House Sparrow, European Starling, House Wren, House Finch, Chickadee, Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, nuthatch, Crested Flycatcher, etc, since killing a native species is a federal offense. Only the introduced, nonnative House Sparrow and European Starling can be destroyed. If you cannot distinguish House Sparrows and starlings from other common bird species, we suggest you purchase A Field Guide to Birds by Roger Tory Peterson, 1980, Houghton Mifflin Company.

**What To Do With Trapped Birds:** Once you have positively identified the trapped bird as a starling or House Sparrow, you must decide what to do with it. Some people choose to kill the birds, while others take them for food to an animal rehabilitation facility. Still others transport them 10 to 20 miles away and release them. This latter option, while easier on some people's consciences, really serves no purpose other than to waste fuel. We do not recommend this option. House Sparrows and starlings have great homing ability and will fly right back in a matter of hours. Should you decide to euthanize the birds, we recommend either cervical dislocation or ether as the means.

Cervical dislocation is accomplished by grasping the bird's skull in one hand and its body at the base of the skull in the other hand. Pulling rapidly and firmly in opposite directions will separate the spinal cord resulting in rapid death. If you choose to use ether (engine starter fluid), place the bird in a plastic bag and spray ether into the bag.

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