

A few words about bait. Wild mice, especially the House Mouse (Mus musculus) work best. However, black or brown domestic mice are less likely to tire out and become inactive. I use both of the above. White domestic mice are least acceptable and my experience with them is that often they are rejected by the hawk; as a result I now do not use them. This trap will hold grasshoppers and crickets but I have never tried to use them.

I have used this trap on shrikes with much improvement in catch. It works equally well for Sparrow Hawks as the earlier traps I have used. The accompanying photographs will attest to its ability to catch these small predators.

The first time I used this trap for a shrike, I failed to notice a Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) which was close by, and by the time I had turned my car around, this large hawk was down on the trap. I hastily drove back in order to chase him away, and he flew and landed in a nearby cornfield. But he carried the trap with him. I ran after him on foot and after a 300-yard or so chase, the redtail dropped the trap and flew away. The hawk was later caught and banded, using a larger and more appropriate Bal-Chatri.

I am very interested in what experiences other hawk banders are having and would gladly receive any suggestions, hints or questions.

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PARTIAL ALBINO WHITE-THROATED SPARROW



Mrs. Dorothy L. Mitchell of Newport News, Virginia, writes, "We netted and banded this White-throated Sparrow last February (1966) and it is back again this winter. It looks completely white, except for the wings, at a distance." Mrs. Mitchell also sent a beautiful color slide of a Lazuli Bunting (which unfortunately would not reproduce well in black and white) which she also banded in February 1966. She says, "The Lazuli Bunting was seen several times and in two different places, and I finally netted it in the Riverside area of Newport News, the third day I tried to."