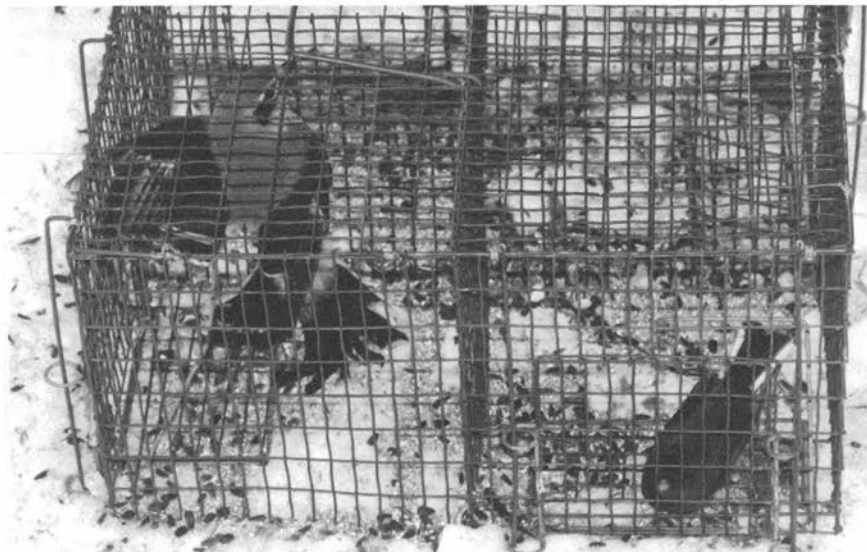


# FIELD NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

## Hungry Northern Shrike Trapped

On December 29, 1995, while banding birds at my home in Foxboro, Massachusetts, I inadvertently baited and trapped a Northern Shrike. At 2:55 P.M. I noticed from my kitchen window that a Dark-eyed Junco had been caught in one cell of a four-cell Potter Trap which was on the snow-covered ground. When I went out to retrieve the junco and band it, I found a Northern Shrike fluttering on the sides and top of the trap-cell which contained the junco. When I had approached to a distance of twelve feet, the shrike flew to low perch in a yew four feet from the trap. I walked back to the house and from the kitchen watched the shrike again attempt to attack the junco. After about four minutes, the shrike entered the trap cell adjacent to the junco and became trapped (see photograph). The shrike was tinged with buff, suggesting that it was an immature bird. In the winter of 1995-1996 record numbers of Northern Shrikes invaded Massachusetts (see Petersen and Davis, this issue) and as is often the case with irruptive species, a high percentage of the invading birds are immatures, presumably driven south by the failure of major prey species. The intensity and persistence of the attack of this shrike on the trapped junco suggests that the shrike was hungry. The shrike was released, and the junco banded and released unharmed.

William E. Davis, Jr., Foxboro, MA



*Dark-eyed Junco and Northern Shrike, December 29, 1995*

*Photograph by William E. Davis, Jr.*