

NOTE

Mention was made of the Verball Pole Trap with relation to some success on Red-shoulders, but I wish to add that this trap has some very serious disadvantages. Using this trap I have taken Horned Owls, a Red-shoulder, and two Kestrels intentionally, and a Long-eared Owl, Flicker, Kingfisher, and Grackle inadvertently. Jack Holt has taken a Horned Owl, Red-shoulder, Long-eared Owl and an Osprey. Chester Robertson even took a Golden Eagle with one of these traps.

The major disadvantage of the trap is that the cord which it throws around a bird's legs often causes superficial or even serious injury to the bird. Two of my three Great Horned Owls, the Red-shoulder, and the Kingfisher suffered superficial cuts on one or both legs, and Holt's Horned Owl required several days of retention to treat serious swelling of the legs. Holt's Long-eared Owl died under care, and my own was found dead a few weeks later near the point of release. It had cuts on both legs and appeared groggy at release. One of my Kestrels had a non-serious leg cut, and the other a very bad cut. The Flicker which my trap took was killed, and the Grackle suffered a broken leg.

We no longer use Verball Pole Traps because:

- (1) There is no way of controlling what they will capture.
- (2) Injuries to trapped birds are altogether too frequent.
- (3) Two or three checks a day are necessary to avoid leaving a bird in the trap for too long a period of time.

If use of the Verball is limited to large species the size of Red-tails, Horned Owls, Ospreys, etc., in a situation where it can be observed at regular intervals, it is an excellent trap, but it should only be used under close supervision.

Our other trapping methods, especially the Bal-Chatri, seem reasonably safe, and we have had no injuries whatsoever while using them.

The author thanks the other banders mentioned for the information they have shared with Jack Holt and myself, and for much assistance they have given us in developing and improving our raptor-trapping techniques.

I shall be glad to furnish any further available information to any interested persons.

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