

It is doubtful if decoy traps are a significant source of mortality for kestrels, but this apparent willingness to enter decoy traps to feed upon the occupants and indirectly scaring away potential victims constitutes a distinct disadvantage of using decoy traps to capture pest blackbirds. It is difficult to estimate the extent of use of these traps in North America, but at least three farmers experiencing crop losses to blackbirds in the Beauharnois district of Quebec are using them.

This foraging behavior of kestrels is indicative of their opportunistic nature. Earlier, Hodgdon (1975) reported a male kestrel decapitating a Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) through the wire mesh of the trap holding the finch.

The decoy trap or perhaps a smaller, more manageable version could prove useful for trapping small raptors either on breeding territory or at hawk-trapping stations during migration. These traps would not require constant vigilance. However, frequent checking of the trap contents should lessen constant bait replacement and/or damage to cerea or feathers of the raptors.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

1981 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE AND INTERNATIONAL BALD EAGLE/OSPREY SYMPOSIUM

At the Sheraton Mt.-Royal Hotel in Montreal, an international symposium on the biology and management of the Bald Eagle and Osprey will be held on October 28 and 29, 1981, followed immediately by the annual meeting and conference of the Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. from October 30 to November 2. The scientific program will be accompanied by workshops, evening films and an exhibit of both recent and rare paintings of birds of prey. For further information, contact:

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