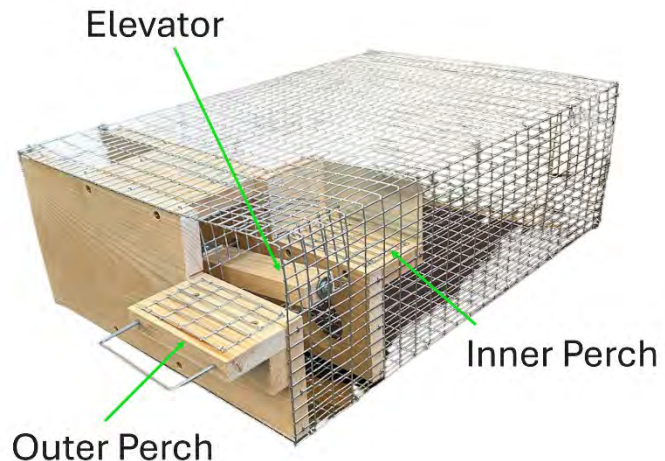


## WCS Repeating Elevator Sparrow Trap Instructions

This trap was designed to trap English House Sparrows (HOSP) efficiently and with minimal effort. There are a few tips and tricks that will increase your capture rates and minimize risks to native non-target species. Although this trap will work year-round, it is likely your best success will be from March through October (earlier in the south, and later in the north). Pre-baiting can be beneficial using either white millet or cracked corn. You can have success placing the trap on the ground but will have a better catch rate if you can elevate the trap. Elevating the trap also will reduce the number of non-target captures.

The trap ships with the outer perch stored inside the trap entrance. Carefully remove it and affix to the side of the trap as shown using the supplied screws and pre-drilled holes. Place bait on the inner and outer wood perch areas on either side of the elevator (aka seesaw). Some people lightly glue some of this bait down so that the trap stays operational even after HOSP have knocked off or eaten the bait. Initially you may put some bait on the large piece of wood at the top of the cage. Once you start trapping only bait the inner and outer perch areas and a bait cup inside of the trap. As soon as you start to capture HOSP's you will want to keep some alive and inside the trap as decoys. Four to five live decoys seem to be the optimal number. These decoys will become a critical component of your success as HOSP's are highly social and attracted to one another. A 50/50 mix of males and females works best. Cover the trap with an old blanket or towel at night to prevent hypothermia and reduce stress. Small feeder cups can be hooked onto the wire inside the trap to provide the decoys with fresh food and water. Alternatively, tuna fish size cans work very well for holding the bait and water on the interior of the trap



Traps need to be checked at least once per day so that any native protected birds can be released immediately. It is not legal to trap or harm any native bird species. If you need to leave town overnight deactivate your traps. Take a small piece of wire, bread bag tie, or pipe cleaner and tie the top of elevator to the top of the cage. This will prevent the elevator from dropping into the capture chamber. Allowing the birds access to the bait without being captured is advantageous as when you reactive it you will have better success.

HOSPs may be euthanized under U.S Federal law but be sure of what you have captured. Familiarize yourself with what adult and juvenile HOSPs look like. If you believe it may not be a HOSP but instead a native species release it immediately. Relocating HOSPs only moves the problem and will allow them to continue attacking and destroying our native birds and their young.

The elevator should be periodically checked for proper weighting. The wing nut with washers on the back side of the elevator allow for a heavier/lighter adjustment. A HOSP weighs about .85 - 1.4 ounces, and we've found that an AA battery or four quarters can be used as a balance reference.