

TECHNIQUES

A SIMPLE METHOD FOR TRAPPING THE FISCAL SHRIKE - *Lanius collaris*.

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A study of the shrike population on the campus of the University of Rhodesia has necessitated a heavy ringing programme and the following trapping method has been used with some success.

The trap (Fig.1) is basically a cylinder, closed at one end and with a tunnel let into the side at the other. A door flap is cut into the closed end. The whole structure is made of 2cm wire mesh.

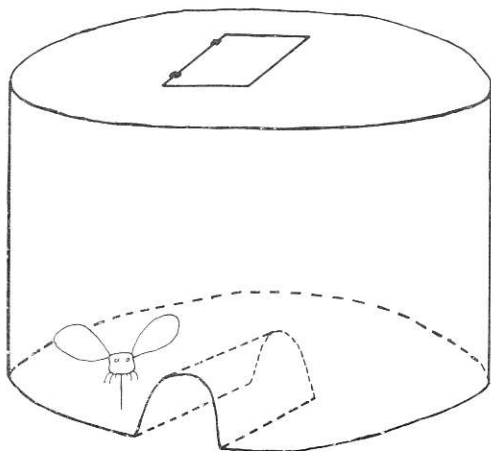


Fig.1: A device for trapping *Lanius collaris*. The structure and function of the trap are described in the text. (The mysterious creature in the left hand corner has been identified tentatively as a bat-eared mouse but could be a locust viewed head-on, other suggestions would be welcome-Ed.)

Locusts are used as bait. They are fixed by looping one end of a piece of wire around the cervix or neck region. The other end of the wire is stuck into the ground so that the locust is suspended in mid air and flaps its wings. A straightened paper clip is ideal for this purpose.

The shrike finds its way into the trap but can't get out. One trapping team working with 4 of these traps for 3 hours captured 25 shrikes. So far over 50 adult shrikes and a number of juveniles have been captured. The escape rate is negligible once the technique has been perfected.

Some birds proved very 'trap shy' - not approaching a trap which was clearly visible for up to 2 hours. Others, in the same area, were trapped 3 times in under an hour.
