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# Hunter Starling Trap

## OFFERS A SOLUTION TO PEST SPECIES

We want people to trap and eliminate starlings

The Hunter Starling Trap came about due to a conversation on a web site that sparked an idea. We decided to try out the idea, and have been pleased. The "catch box" is entirely Larry's idea and design, as is the front on the elbow.

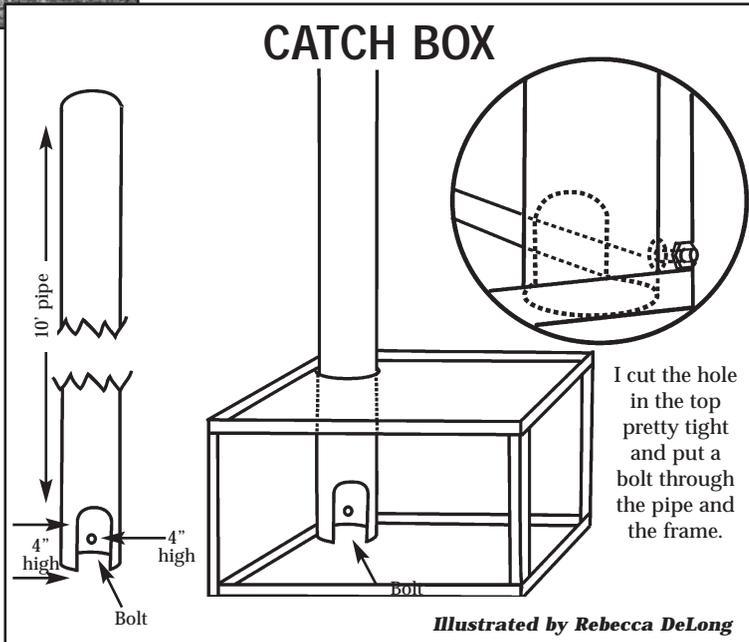
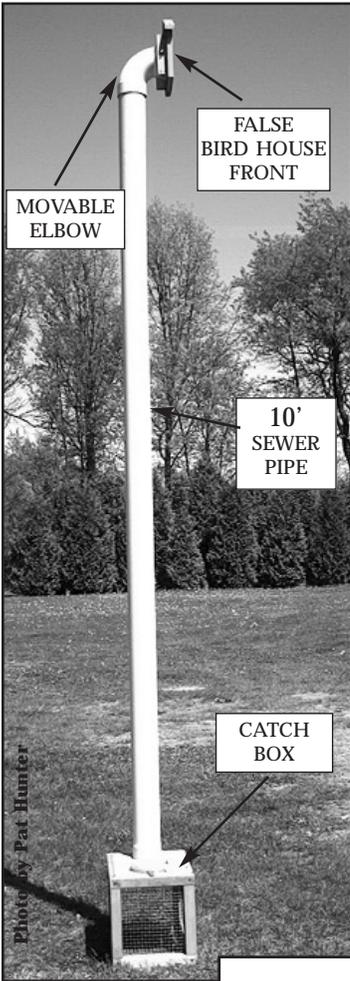
This trap is so neat and it really works! The Hunter Starling Trap is inexpensive to make and has many possibilities. We used 4-inch sewer pine (thin wall).

I do want people to realize that you have to **MONITOR THE TRAP REGULARLY**, as with any trap, and it has to have sufficient air circulation. [Any beneficial species caught in the trap should be released immediately.] We usually lay the trap on the ground if we're going to be gone for any time at all.

We've been bluebirders since 1989. All we want is people to trap and eliminate starlings. We simply won't tolerate starlings in any of our birdhouses.

—Larry and Pat Hunter of San Pierre, Indiana

*Hunter Starling Trap  
is lightweight  
and portable*



**Hunter Starling Trap above shows facade bird house on 10' sewer pipe with catch box at bottom. Below, a starling is shown trapped in the catch box.**



**Do not use any trapping device if unable to monitor constantly**

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**1. As with any trap it must be monitored, monitored, monitored.** Other birds may be caught and should be released immediately. There needs to be a way of releasing any good bird without stressing it. That's the reason one side of catch box is hinged to open all the way.

**2. Be sure to use white pipe.** Heat build-up from black pipe may cause a chimney affect, allowing hot air to rush upward and out the hole of the fake nest box.

**3. Spray paint inside elbow and inside pipe about 10 inches.** This removes any glare so unsuspecting starlings do not realize there is no bottom to the fake house. Use flat black spray paint inside the elbow and the first foot or so in the 10-foot pipe. Put top end of pipe on a sawhorse and spray into the end. The spray will reach about 12 inches into pipe. Spray the elbow from both ends to cover completely. Use masking tape and newspaper to cover outside of pipe so it stays white.

**4. The elbow with false box front is NOT glued.** It can be turned to face any direction. Starlings perch on top of the wood front and also hang on it for extended periods of time before taking the plunge. Most get in the trap in early morning hours, before 7 a.m. One windy and cold day one went in around 11 a.m. The trap was facing into the wind which may have helped him make the decision.

**5. We use a 2-1/8" entrance hole in false house front.** A 2-inch hole might work too.

**6. The catch box can be whatever a person wants it to be.** We cut a hole in the bottom of the pipe and set it on the bottom of the catch box. [See illustration for details.]

**7. A small grab hole in which one can get the starling without it escaping.** Larry and I empty the catch box as a team. I put my hands over the hole on top so he can reach in to make the retrieval. It has been suggested that we tack a piece of inner tube over the small hole, and cut a slit in which to reach into the box and retrieve a bird.

**8. Top hole used to remove starling must NOT be allowed to move by a bird knocking against it from inside.** We lost four birds because they were jumping up and hitting the lid that we slide open to remove them because it wasn't secured. The wind dried the wood and eventually they got their freedom.

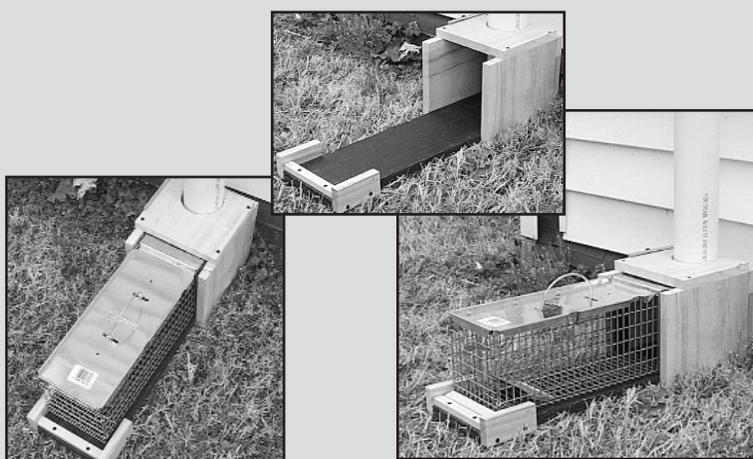
**9. Trap is a little top heavy and needs to be secured.** We attach ours to a martin pole (wired). It might stand alone on a calm day, but not if there is wind. Some may want to put a house around the elbow, but that would only be added weight. One could probably drive a T-post and secure it to that and still move it quite easily, if desired.

## Society member offers a hands-free modification to the Hunter Starling Trap

To: <natsoc@adams.net

I have come up with a modification to the Hunter Starling Trap that I feel is worth passing on. I used a Havahart Chipmunk trap model #0745 as a catch box. This trap is relatively inexpensive and easy to use. I bypass the trigger and drop the door to remove the catch box from the trap. This catch box allows a person to trap and remove the birds without having to handle them.

— Glynn Parker



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