

Universal Sparrow Trap Round



The Universal Sparrow Trap will fit inside many different aluminum and wooden housing

The Universal Sparrow Trap will catch House Sparrows and Starlings but you may also inadvertently catch non targeted birds such as Blue Birds, Tree Swallows or Purple Martins so it is extremely important that you are responsible in the operation of this trap. Never leave the trap unchecked for longer than 1/2 hour. The best time to capture House Sparrows-Starlings is on a warm sunny morning, in late winter and early spring.

To set the trap shutter, pivot the thumb screw (found in the front of the metal plate), counter clockwise to raise the shutter and with your free hand insert a finger into the hole and pull the trip mechanism towards the metal front and let the shutters weight hold the tripping mechanism into place. Carefully insert the trap into the desired cavity. The trap is sprung when the sparrow enters the cage stepping on the trip mechanism quickly shutting the door. Wait no more than 1/2 hour and check your trap. **(TIP!** I use a wind up kitchen timer and set it for 1/2 hour and keep it with me. When the timer rings I go check my trap.) Identify the trapped bird, using a field guide. Only non native birds; the House Sparrow and European Starling may be disposed of.

What to do with trapped birds. Once you have identified the captured bird as either a Starling or House sparrow, you have a decision of what to do with it. Some people choose to kill the birds, others transport them 10 to 20 miles away and release them. This latter option really serves no purpose other than to waste fuel. Starlings and House Sparrows have great homing ability and will fly right back to your yard in a matter of hours. Releasing trapped birds in someone else's neighborhood just passes the problem on to their yards. Should you decide to kill the birds, you have several options. You can place them in a plastic bag, and spray ether into the bag; you can place them in a plastic garbage bag, then fill the bag with exhaust from a car; you can place them in your fist and squeeze their rib cage tightly (front to back) for 60 seconds preventing their breathing; you can wring their necks; or you can leave them in the UST and submerge the whole unit with bird in a bucket of water.



House Sparrow

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Inserting the UST into a Coates Watersedge House.

Open front compartment. Remove the raised floor from compartment. Slide trap into the compartment and then raise the shutter and set the tripping mechanism. I easily accomplished this using my fingers but you may find a pencil eraser handy. Lower the front panel. Generally speaking I find that it is not necessary to raise the housing as I have chosen a compartment that nest building has already begun and the House Sparrow will go into its selected compartment even with the housing lowered.

This insert trap will fit in a variety of martin housing with an opening of 5 1/4 H" x 4 3/4 D" x 4 3/4 W" with the entrance hole aligned at 2 3/8". In some housing the trap hole may not align with the housing, but could still be used to catch House Sparrows by setting the trap back from the entrance hole.

