

1978

An Inexpensive Method for Capturing Short-eared Owls

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Recommended Citation

Kahn, Richard H. and Millsap, Brian A. (1978) "An Inexpensive Method for Capturing Short-eared Owls," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 3 : Iss. 2 , Article 5.

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greatest number occurred in 1963. The oldest recoveries ranged from 8 to over 12 years of age. Local recoveries (19) were made within 11 miles over 10 year's time. Recoveries beyond Cape Ann (107) ranged from 13—1,307 miles, made over more than 12 years, including nearly all states between Florida and Massachusetts. Only two recoveries (Boothbay and Portland, Maine) were made north of the banding site. Published accounts and this study indicate that Herring Gulls move up and down the Atlantic Coast, but they seldom go north of their point of origin. A map indicates areas of recovery.

Acknowledgments

I am indebted to the following persons who assisted with the gull banding: Herbert Kenny; Herbert Kenny, Jr.; Paul, Peter, and Matthew Heaney; Robert Haberstroh; Dr. Edward Hunt; Robert Perry; Edward Pearce; and Eric Ronnberg. Also, to those who have reported recoveries, especially Dr. W.H. Drury, R.L. Ferren, Dr. J.A. Kadlec, and R.E. Woodruff.

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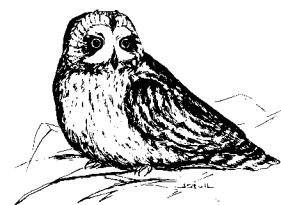
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An inexpensive method for capturing Short-eared Owls

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As part of a study concerning winter roost site selection of Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) in Larimer County, Colorado, we developed an inexpensive and simple technique for capturing owls without the aid of mist nets or lures.

In our observation of Short-eared Owls in marsh and field roosts, we found that—when flushed from their roosts during the middle of the day—the owls consistently flew to nearby posts and alighted there until the intruders left the immediate area.

We then developed a type of baitless Bal Chatri trap for placing on fence posts. This consisted of a piece of hardware cloth cut to fit the top of the post. The hardware cloth was noosed with monofilament fishing line and tied to a drag. The

drag, a piece of wood, was placed at the base of the post in the grass. The trap was attached to the post by bending the corners so that it was flush with the post and so that there was no overlap on the sides. Both the hardware cloth and the nooses were painted black. Cost of this trap was ten dollars for one dozen traps.

From 19 January to 15 February 1978, four Short-eared Owls were taken in eight trapping hours, using this method. In addition, six owls landed on traps but did not get noosed.

We would like to thank Dr. R.A. Ryder of Colorado State University for reviewing this manuscript. ♦

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