

KC78 AND KC79 MAGPIE TRAP

The Larsen trap is a live-catch cage trap for the control of Magpies and other Corvids. A treadle-operated device with the possibility of several catching modules, the trap is designed to capture the birds unharmed. Use of a decoy module is advised.

SETTING THE TRAP AND DECOY MODULE

- Place the decoy cage on the ground and open out to form a cube. Slide in the metal plate top, and place inside the cage the decoy or 'call' bird.
- As above, place the catch trap on the ground and open out to form a cube.
- Connect the spring over the top of the hinges to the doors. These pull the doors together. The cube should be placed so that the doors are at the top.
- Holding the doors open (by pushing down), lift the floor treadle slightly. Move the connecting bar ('goal post') up against the door lips. The sensitivity can be altered depending on how far in from the door lips the end of the connecting bar sits – the closer to the edge of the lip, the more sensitive the setting. The trap is now set.
- After positioning the trap (see below), adjust the sensitivity to suit.

PLACING THE TRAP

- It pays to spend some time observing the bird's moving and feeding patterns. A decoy or 'call' bird positioned in an adjacent module will greatly enhance the capture rate.
- Carefully place the trap on the ground as close as possible to areas that the birds frequent, ideally next to the decoy bird module. Set the trap as described above. Remove any debris that could interfere with the trap's action.

- Put a decoy (lure) bird into the decoy module. Place a small dish of water and a second small dish containing a broken hen's egg (or similar) inside both the decoy module and the trap to provide food and water for the birds. If using more than one catching trap, then each one should have food and water. Make sure that food and water does not prevent the treadle from moving fully.
- One decoy module can support several catching traps (eg. two each side).
- Check trap at least daily.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 must also be consulted.

It is essential that the use of these traps is in line with the relevant bird control licences that are available. The conditions of the various bird control licences must be adhered to.

"TIPS OF THE TRADE"

When the traps are new, leave them outside for a few days to 'weather' – this removes any new or human smells.

As the birds can be a little wary, it often pays to camouflage the trap with natural materials lying nearby, such as grass, twigs or leaves.

For control purposes, the captured birds can be humanely culled with a Semark dispatcher or similar. Make sure you keep one specimen to act as a call bird if more trapping is planned.

