

ACT



AGAINST CORVID TRAPS

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REPORT OF CRUELTY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE OF THE LARSEN TRAP. COMPILED MAY 2016

Larsen Traps were designed by a Danish gamekeeper in the 1950s but are now banned in Denmark As they are viewed as inhumane. Here we show the reasons why:

, HEATHFIELD, EAST SUSSEX MAY 2011 POLICE REFERENCE : 988/26/5/11

Larsen containing a crow. The only food that the crow could have eaten were raw eggs in their shells on the bottom of the cage. There was no water and any had long drained away.

This bird was visibly ill and taken to the Veterinary Hospital, See Vet report below.



VETERINARY REPORT

E mail received 27th May 2011

'I write with regard to the crow that was presented by you for assessment and treatment at Alphapet Veterinary Clinics, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, on the morning of Thursday 26th May 2011.

The body weight was 278g and the bird was noted to be in an emaciated condition. It appeared extremely weak with slow responses to stimulation. The tail feathers and the tips of the wing feathers were contaminated with a pale material, considered to be faeces.

We performed crop tubing with a small amount of liquid Critical Care Formula. However, once we stopped supporting the head for this, the bird regurgitated the fluid. We placed the bird back in its cage but it died approximately 15 minutes later.'

Front page photo: WE asked the opinion of a corvid expert who runs a Leicestershire Corvid Rescue

I' cannot believe these photos, unbelievable! I am sorry to hear both birds did not survive poor things.

Aside from the fact the bird clearly has No water, the food provided is not sufficient, yes corvids do eat eggs but a wider range off foods is required not just eggs for protein, also the eggs would quickly go off, I can see from the picture the bird does not seem to want them, so it would starve. I also note that the cage seems really small? And the fact there is twine inside the cage which could wrap around the birds legs and feet and damage the bird - causing distress, was there an area to perch? The plastic container also is a hazard, I suspect this was supposed to have the water inside?'

LANCASHIRE 2010 Police involved

26/3/10

We received an e mail asking us where he stood with his neighbour who had a trap in his garden.

27/3/10

We replied to the person attaching a General Licence for his information, and explained that the neighbour is probably thinking he would be saving songbirds with his Larsen trap, but that we would explain to police we believed there was a breach of the General licence. We also told him to keep a diary to check if bird unwell etc. Asked also for a photo.

27/3/10

Person replies to e mail and says he will keep a diary of the unfortunate Magpie, he says one of the decoy birds froze to death in the recent snow, he had reported the trap to the RSPCA



Police reaction: We contacted Lancashire police who took advice from wildlife liaison officer ,PC Duncan Thomas,. We pointed out that there was no flora and fauna that needed protecting in this garden as it was grass, and that as the person did not own the surrounding farm, he could not show netting/proofing had tried and failed : both requirements to satisfy the General Licence. We also alerted him to the bird that frozen to death. Police allowed the traps to stay and we later found Duncan Thomas retired to work for the British Association of Shooting and Conservation!

REMARK OF WALKER APRIL 2009

'While on a walk in Weardale, Co. Durham (doing a BTO survey) today I saw two rooks in a trap and while still in the vicinity a man came out of the house and reached into the cage. I didn't actually see what he did but he carried one dead bird in one direction then got the other and carried it lifeless to a spot nearby, smacked its head on a post and dropped it into the stream. I am not sure why he was trapping them or why he seemed to make a point of killing them (perhaps because I had a note pad and binoculars) but is it legal to trap and kill rooks this time of year? I am not sure if I should report this incidence and who should I "report it to?'

Larsen Trap with No Perch April 2012



ON SOME ESTATES GAMEKEEPERS FIND KILLING CORVIDS IN LARSEN TRAPS LIKE A COMPETITIVE SPORT



Larsen trap showing minimal cover for decoy bird September 2008



Trading and swopping birds over the internet for use in the Larsen trap

Posted 18 April 2016

'Got a couple of jays in south Norfolk if anyone needs a call bird '

Reply : *'You had magpie of me didn't you. I'll have a jay'*

Stock for Larsen traps.(Right)
Birds are often held over-winter
in poor conditions to provide
birds for Larsen traps the follow-
ing spring.



A Fox cub caught in a Larsen . Traps set close to the ground leads to the birds being terrorised by predators.

Posted on internet July2009, Essex

'Here is my best catch from last season, note decoy bird in trap .'



September 2011 an e mail from a distressed witness . Herts

'On Sunday 4th September 2011 I found a Larsen Trap on land which is in, Hertfordshire. The property does not have a name or number that I could see, although it is next to a property.

Inside the Larsen Trap was a Fox in one section & 2 decoy Magpies in the other section. Both birds & the Fox were distressed.

This trap had been set on Saturday evening 3rd September 2011, during which time the Fox was caught & then shot twice by the land owner.'

December 2011 another e mail . Worcester

'In a small triangular field surrounded by hedges. Secluded and cannot be seen from the road. At least 2 magpies and 3 crows inside, plus 3 or 4 chicken carcasses. One crow body seen on the floor of

MAY 2009 Two Fox Cubs caught in Larsen Trap, note decoy bird in next compartment.



Below: Jonathan Darcy posted on the Snares and Trapping forum on THE HUNTING LIFE.COM

*IMHO forget the jay mate. There are two ways to get a call maggie and one is to lend/load or beg one off someone. the other is to go out now , while there is still no leaves on the trees and shoot some at night by looking for their silhouette in the trees. **If you shoot enough you will find the odd one is a winged "runner". beware, they can run bloody fast!!! best to use the clipped bird to get the first maggie, then use the new bird.** I used to supply a good few "first" call birds to the guys local. We used to have a larson in thr garden at this time every year. i think best we ever got was 14. In 10 years of using larson only ever got maggies, never got a crow or a cat....they are a very good trap. good luck (Sic)*

See above: Birds are wounded to provide decoy birds by some people.



Crudely constructed home made Larsen traps June 2012 No Space for Birds

Comment:

: *'While out hill walking in the Scottish Borders I came across this pair of traps (see attached photo). They were located on sheep grazing land. There was one crow in the larger trap (decoy bird?). It had what looked like dog food pellets and water. In the smaller trap there was a second crow.'* (Sic)



Website Discussion about Larsen decoy birds ■ March 2012

will local magpies work in Larsen trap

'Question: I got a magpie for my Larsen trap the other day but i dont think he will live and i cant get another one off him can i use a magpie that i cought in the same place as my trap is in becouse im cathing them in my back garden and i cant move my trap around so will a local magpie still catch other ones from from this aria '(Sic)

Reply :Yes shouldn't be a problem

Reply; yep or swap one with a lad

Reply: Yes a local will still attract them but as said a non local would

Swapping Decoy Birds from around the Country

March 2012

QUESTION: *'Hi All I've got a surplus magpie which I've caught. If any one wants one*

Reply: *'Whereabouts in Oxon? Charlie killed mine last week!*

Reply: *'One magpie still available!'*

'Wotton Under Edge '

June 2010 Film and Remarks on You Tube

YouTube - Larsen Trap 1 Cat 0

*'Our cat Itchy was trying to reach a dead magpie in the **Larsen trap**. These things are on a hairspring trigger so how he managed to tinker round for as long ...'*

May 2011 NO FRESH WATER IN A BOWL: Example of failing to supply corvids' basic need to dunk food

Larsen Trap with mammal water bottle



Mammal drinking feeder in a Larsen trap



Correspondence between Natural England and a corvid expert re the use of mammal water bottles in Larsen cages.

‘Dear Dr Rodney Calvert,

I am concerned about the use of rodent water bottles in Larsen traps, especially for the larger beaked members of the crow family including rooks and carrion crows which may not be able to access water through such tiny nozzles. Furthermore this will prevent the crows from being able to dunk food, which is part of their normal behavioural repertoire.

I say this as an expert in corvid behaviour and cognition. I have been working with these wonderful birds for almost thirty years, and have experience with many different species from the more delicately beaked magpies and jays to the larger rooks and crows.

*Yours ever,
Nicky Clayton ‘*

*>> Nicola S Clayton, FRS FSB FSPS C Psychol FBPsS
>> Professor of Comparative Cognition*

Website Forum (Gamekeepers Forum)

Posted May 2011

Example of predation of captive corvids:

'went to go check my larson yesterday morning and as i walked up to the trap noticed the call bird was missing , as the other trap elsewhere had the call birds let go by do-gooders i thought the same but as i got closer i noticed a hole had been torn thru the mesh and about 10 foot away from the trap feathers of the magpie' (Sic)

i cant see how a badger could get in the field as it is stock proof fencing so leads me to believe it is fox , what do you think?

E mail to Against Corvid Traps December 2010

com-ments: *I am concerned to know how long you are allowed to leave the 'decoy bird' in the trap ... in the same position.*

I have witnessed traps locally this week, in the freezing conditions where the birds are just left out the whole time.

Is it legal to leave decoy birds out all winter?

Minimum Shelter on this Larsen : birds are sometimes left all winter



Gamekeepers Forum www

Posted 13 March 2016 - 08:46 AM
Morning

‘Question: ‘Anyone use rabbit water bottles to give water to their magpies/crows? Seen it done a few times but want to be 100% sure it works before buying a load of them.’

Reply: ‘Currently use old drink bottles with lid cut off but is prone to pick up alot of mess.’

Reply ‘Cheers ‘

Reply: ‘I find that the birds tend to frequently wash their food in the water, and depending on what they are fed with the water can get very mucky very quickly, especially unpleasant in

Perches too high, no shelter, home made Larsen trap



Home Made With No Cover or perches



No Cover for these birds open to the elements and other predators.



Pictures speak a thousand words

All these birds found dead , High Salvington December 2009



Pheasant with head injury in Larsen May 2016 West Sussex



The use of Larsen traps in gardens should be illegal under the Natural England's General Licence as you need to be "protecting flora and fauna" and have tried and failed with "proofing or scaring." Given that the trap will actually deter song birds, and the garden owner generally does not own the surrounding land, they cannot fulfil the general licence on both counts. Nevertheless, the law is sufficiently nebulous for some police forces to fail to act.

A Larsen trap in a garden, Hampshire 2010



Posted 24 February 2010 - 01:06 PM (Gamekeepers Forum)

Just caught a magpie in a half larsen should i kill it and go for another

Another home made Larsen with no cover, and just an egg for food



Feb 2011 Peebles Bird of Prey Caught in Larsen Trap



Crow left to die in Larsen trap



Another decoy bird dead in Larsen trap



Another fox cub in Larsen February 2011 Note bird next door.



Lamb in a Larsen trap



Fox in a Larsen with no cover



SPARROWHAWK IN LARSEN TRAP FEBRUARY 2010



Below: another fox in a Larsen Trap



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We call for the total abolition of the cruel Larsen trap

The facts.....

- 1) The Larsen trap stands condemned: the wild decoy bird has its most vital instincts are suppressed by confinement which amounts to physical torment.
- 2) Water is often filthy or unavailable, and there is an increasing trend to provide rodent water bottles, thus depriving birds of their natural instinct to dunk food to make palatable.
- 3) To work at all, the decoy bird needs to be exposed, thus leading to a design that can never provide protection from the elements.
- 4) The decoy birds are terrorised by seeing their fellow birds killed in a brutal fashion in front of them
- 5) The decoy bird is terrorised by predators day and night, with no opportunity to escape.
- 6) Food is either a rotting rabbit carcase or dry: neither being a palatable food for Corvids.
- 7) The traps encourage the illegal trapping of raptors, and some are deliberately baited with dead game birds to provide a fox trap
- 8) No one knows where the Larsen Traps are situated in England and Wales, so no checks on the general licence requirements can ever be made.



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