# Sparrow Traps "Guaranteed" To Work

Darned sparrows messing up your shed?

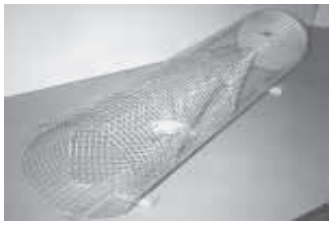
Here's a guaranteed trap sold by Levi Burkholder, Goshen, Indiana, who offers two versions of the TP Vail sparrow trap.

The Vail Sparrow Trap was originally designed by the Roy T. Vail Co., Antwerp, Ohio, in 1919 and was a big seller for many years.

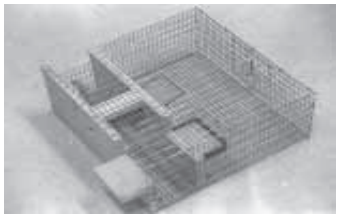
The basic trap is a 3-ft. long, 8-in. dia. cylinder of galvanized small-mesh welded wire. The cylinder mounts on two sturdy pedestals that keep it from rolling around. Inside there are two chambers that birds find their way into easily. Once inside the second chamber, however, the trapped birds can't find their way back out. A revolving door at the back of the second chamber allows removal of trapped birds.

Burkholder says the trap is completely automatic. All you have to do is put it in a place frequented by sparrows and then bait them with a handful of feed. He says they'll last a lifetime and come with a satisfaction guarantee. The standard trap sells for $43.50, while a larger, square-shaped trap is $54.50. His company, Burkholder Mfg. & Sales, pays the shipping. Do-it-yourself plans are also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Levi Burkholder, Burkholder Mfg. & Sales, 14160 County Road 40, Goshen, Ind. 46528 (ph 574 642-3611; fax 574 642-3617; E-mail: levi@burkholder-mfg.com; Website: www.burkholder-mfg.com).



**Sparrow trap consists of a 3-ft. long, 8-in. dia. cylinder of galvanized small-mesh welded wire.**



**This larger, square-shaped trap is also available.**

**Don Skinner modified this stationary lift boom, adding a 4-ft. length of steel tubing behind the lift arm and mounting a seat on the end of machine's telescoping lift arm.**

# "Cherry Picker" Lifts Farmer Into Tractors, Combine

Don Skinner, Pawnee, Ill., suffered the use of his legs as a result of a fall from a grain bin more than 20 years ago. He needed a way to get into his tractors and combine without needing help from anyone else. So he modified a stationary lift boom by adding a 4-ft. length of steel tubing behind the lift arm and mounting a seat on the end of the machine's telescoping lift arm.

Skinner installed a battery-operated boat winch at the base of the machine. He also welded a 4-ft. length of tubing onto the back side of the telescoping lift arm and mounted a pulley on it.

Skinner uses a switch mounted under the seat to raise or lower the seat on the lift arm. A length of angle iron mounted under and parallel to the lift arm keeps the seat parallel to the ground at all times. One end of the angle iron is bolted to the seat, while the other end pivots on the cherry picker's vertical main beam. As the lift arm is raised or lowered, the angle iron pivots to keep the seat from tilting too far backward or forward.

"I can use it anywhere by myself with no need for anyone to help me. It's far less expensive than a new commercial lift and eliminates the need to mount a separate lift on each machine," says Skinner.

"To use the rig, I roll it over close to whatever I want to get into, then transfer myself into the seat and use the switch to raise the lift. After I pull the door open and pull myself into the cab, I simply push the lift away. I've even used it to get in the passenger side of a semi tractor so that I could ride with my son. My son, who is not disabled, has used it to change light bulbs in our shop ceiling, and to get rid of bird's nests above the shop door."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Skinner, 139 E. 1200 N Road, Pawnee, Ill. 62558 (ph 217 526-3358).

**A pair of electric fence insulators mount on front of Egli's New Idea 484 baler. Twine travels over insulators, turning them, so he can see whether the twine is moving.**

# Bale Twine Indicators Help Keep Bales Tied Properly

Edwin Egli had difficulty seeing the twine when baling with his New Idea 484 baler. "I couldn't tell if the twine was moving or not so I often dumped out bales that weren't tied. I also had bales with twine wrapped all through them because the twine didn't cut off and I didn't realize that it was still going out."

He solved the problem by mounting a pair of electric fence insulators on front of the baler. The twine travels over these insulators, turning them, so he can see at a glance whether the twine is moving.

"It didn't cost anything more than a little time and material I had on hand," he says.

Egli painted a dark stripe on front of each insulator to make any movement easy to see.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edwin Egli, 4825 County Road 139, New Salem, N. Dak. 58563 (ph 701 843-7380; E-mail: egli@westriv.com).

# Portable, Low-Cost Fence Post Brace

The most difficult part of constructing a fence, and the most time consuming, is building the corners. A Texas rancher has invented a fence post brace that lets you quickly make corner posts without using any wooden posts or braces and without having to dig any post holes.

The Push-A-Post works with any conventional steel T-post. It consists of a horizontal base post and a diagonal post that's bolted to it. One end of the base post has a metal ring attached to it, and the top end of the diagonal post has a notched latch on it. To install the unit you first drive a T-post into the ground, then slip the ring over it and slide it all the way down to the ground. Then slide the latch into place over the T-post and push down on it to lock it against one of the knobs on the post.

"It works fast and is lightweight and easy to move, yet it's strong enough to withstand the pull of most any fence," says Phillip Passafuma. "It'll withstand the pull of 1,000 ft. against the post and works with fences that have up to five wires or more. The stronger the pull on the post, the tighter the brace holds. It takes only about three minutes to set up. You can build a dead end fence for only about $17 per 1,000 ft. and a corner fence for about $30, compared to $90 and $150 for conventional fence brace systems."

Passafuma says the brace can be used with either permanent or temporary fencing. "It works great for rotational grazing. You save a lot of money because far fewer fiberglass posts are needed to support the fence. Instead of needing a post every 8 ft., you can space the posts out 80 ft. or so. That means 1,000 ft. of fence requires only 12 posts instead of 125. As a result, you can build a fence for only about 16 to 20 cents per foot. The low cost makes it a lot more practical to divide 100 or 500 acres into 10 or 15-acre tracts. And if you don't like where the fence is, it takes only a few minutes to move it somewhere else."

The Push-A-Post brace sells for less than $20.

Passafuma says he's looking for distributors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Push-A-Post Brace Co., Iola, Texas 77861 (ph 281 731-2574; fax 936 394-5411; Website: www.pushapost.com).

**Push-A-Post fence post brace lets you quickly make corner posts without using any wooden posts or braces and without having to dig any post holes.**

**Diagonal brace hooks over corner post.**