



SONGBIRD-SAFE METHODS FOR RODENT CONTROL

We have seen an unfortunate increase in songbirds that have fallen victim to snap and glue traps designed for rodents. These cruel devices maim and kill songbirds and other non-target wildlife when used incorrectly. Please, NEVER place snap or glue traps outdoors. Use snap traps as a last resort and only use them indoors where songbirds have absolutely no access. Glue traps should never be used because they are inhumane, causing prolonged suffering of the animal caught in the trap.

Prevention is the key to practicing safe rodent control. If you're experiencing a rodent problem, begin by removing sources of food, water and shelter to discourage the rodents' presence. Block access by sealing gaps around air vents to building sub-areas and attics and any other openings that penetrate exteriors. Use sweep seals under doors. A rat can squeeze through a hole the size of quarter, a mouse through a hole smaller than a dime.

Here are rodent control tips that address the root of the problem and keep songbirds safe.

- Don't leave pet food and water outdoors, especially overnight. Store pet-food supplies indoors in sealed containers.
- Don't plant ivy. Ivy provides shelter and a food source for rodents: snails and slugs. Ivy on walls can form "rat ladders" to windows, attics and other interior spaces.
- Keep compost piles as far away from structures as possible.
- Keep grass cut and trees trimmed away from structures.
- Remove birdfeeders. Rats dine on spilled seed and will eat directly from feeders. Removing feeders also helps songbirds by eliminating the spread of avian diseases commonly contracted at birdfeeders. Provide food for birds by planting native habitat plants instead!
- Keep outdoor grills and cooking areas clean.
- Keep firewood off the ground and away from structures to reduce shelter opportunities.
- Securely contain trash in plastic trash bins issued by your city or county. If bins are cracked or missing a lid, contact your Department of Sanitation and ask for a replacement.



Golden-crowned Sparrow, victim of a snap trap. Both legs were broken and the bird was euthanized upon admission to our hospital.



Never use snap traps outdoors or in any location that is accessible to songbirds. Glue traps are inhumane and should never be used regardless of location.