

5 inches in diam and 3 ft long. A metal door was hinged on the top of the trap. The shape of the door was slightly oval; this prevented the door from swinging backwards and created a one-way door. A 20-inch piece of 9-gauge wire was used for the trip and trigger device. When the trigger was pushed forward, the wire released the door and allowed it to drop. One-half inch thick plexiglass was fastened into the outer end of the trap to simulate an unobstructed exit. Finally, a cork-impregnated material (known in the plumbing trade as "No-drip Tape") was pressed into the hardware cloth and dusted with dirt to simulate a natural burrow.

When an adult female ferret was observed to enter a prairie dog burrow, the trap was quickly set and inserted 6 to 10 inches into the entrance. Twenty minutes later, the animal was captured, and was able to turn about in the trap (Fig. 1). Rapid panting, moderate salivation, and urine and musk emission occurred; however, she did not struggle to escape.

Two more ferrets, a young male and an adult female, were later trapped. All three of the ferrets caught were observed to be active on the town subsequent to their release. The trap was also used to capture prairie dogs. The angle of trap placement was dictated by the angle of the burrow and appeared to make little difference to the animals.

To my knowledge, there are no recorded instances of live-capture methods for ferrets. The trap described here is safe to use for ferrets and is efficient. Ferrets can be marked or weighed while in the trap, or they can be readily transferred to a holding cone from the trap.

I am grateful to Dr. Raymond L. Linder, Leader of the South Dakota Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, for his advice and help in trap design. The Unit is supported jointly by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks; South Dakota State University; the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; and the Wildlife Management Institute. Additional funds were supplied by the National Park Service.

REFERENCES

SHEETS, R. G. 1970. Ecology of the black-footed ferret and the black-tailed prairie dog. Unpublished M.S. Thesis, South Dakota State University, Brookings. 42 p.

ROBERT G. SHEETS,¹ South Dakota Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, South Dakota State University, Brookings 57006. *Submitted 1 October 1971; accepted 6 December 1971.*

¹Present address: State Conservation Commission, Boone, Iowa 50036.

Pipistrelle Bats Attracted to Vocalizing Females and to a Blacklight Insect Trap

ABSTRACT: *Male Pipistrellus hesperus were observed landing on collecting sacks containing females of the species. This behavior was noted in the summer and early autumn. This species was also collected in a blacklight insect trap on only one occasion. This behavior is believed to be an uncommon occurrence in bats in general.*

Two molossid, *Tadarida molossa* (Constantine, 1961) and *Molossus ater* (Studier, pers. comm.), and two phyllostomids, *Artibeus jamaicensis* and *Vampyrodes caraccioli* (Studier, pers. comm.), have been observed to call in others of their species when in distressing circumstances. It appears that this behavior has not been well documented for bats.

Stewart and Hart (1967) reported the capture of *Lasiurus borealis* in blacklight insect traps. To our knowledge this is the only record of bats being collected in light traps.

An intensive study of bat activity from September 1964 to June 1967 was conducted at White Spot Spring, Desert Game Range, Clark Co., Nevada. On 6 and 27 August 1966, individual *Pipistrellus hesperus* males were collected after they had landed on sacks containing captive squeaking pipistrelles. On 17 September 1966 several pipistrelles were observed repeatedly flying close to a collecting sack containing other pipistrelles, and on 24 June 1968, a male *P. hesperus* was captured after landing upon a collecting sack which contained squeaking bats of the same species.

In each case the behavior was the same. The bats would fly close to the collecting sacks, occasionally landing and then taking flight again. On the three occasions that bats were captured they were observed crawling around the sack, repeatedly trying to gain entrance by crawling into and out of various folds in the sack. It is interesting that the bats called in were males and the majority of bats in the sack were females.

On 18 August 1970 a female *P. hesperus* was collected from a blacklight insect trap in the S fork of Hanaupah Canyon, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co., California. The bat flew directly into the light trap and was found injured on the ground. At that time five other pipistrelles were observed on the ground next to the light trap. When approached, they made audible vocal clicks and appeared disturbed but made no attempt to escape until gently prodded. A number of other bats were flying in the immediate vicinity of the light trap.

Both types of behavior cited above appear to be unusual and infrequent for the species. *P. hesperus* is not a gregarious species of bat, and this makes it difficult to explain why an individual should be called in by others of the species. Females are the predominant sex found during the summer months and males are collected only infrequently (O'Farrell and Bradley, 1969). Possibly males were attracted to the calls of the females in August and September simply for copulation. However, we are unable to offer a hypothesis as to why the male pipistrelle was called in during June when all females in the sack were pregnant.

The light-trap behavior should be easy to understand. The bats were probably lured to the vicinity of the trap due to the large numbers of insects. It is strange, however, that this type of behavior is not observed more often.

We wish to thank Mr. Fenton R. Kay for critically reviewing the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- CONSTANTINE, D. G. 1961. Spotted bat and big free-tailed bat in northern New Mexico. *Southwest. Natur.*, **6**:92-97.
- O'FARRELL, M. J. AND W. G. BRADLEY. 1970. Activity patterns of bats over a desert spring. *J. Mammal.*, **51**:18-26.
- STEWART, P. A. AND E. L. HART. 1967. Incidental capture of vertebrate wildlife in blacklight insect traps. *Amer. Midl. Natur.*, **78**:235-240.

MICHAEL J. O'FARRELL¹ and BRUCE W. MILLER, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas 89109. *Submitted 4 October 1971; accepted 22 November 1971.*

¹Present address: Department of Biology, University of Nevada, Reno 89507,