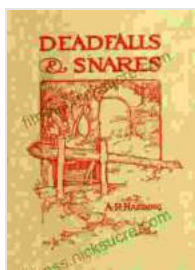


Deadfalls, Traps & Snares:

A Comprehensive Guide to Hunting with Illustrated Examples from Arthur Robert Harding



Deadfalls, Traps & Snares [Illustrated] by Arthur Robert Harding

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2745 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 138 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The pursuit of game through trapping is an ancient and effective method that has been practiced for centuries. Deadfalls, traps, and snares, when properly constructed and set, can provide a reliable means of harvesting game for sustenance, population control, and fur collection.

In this comprehensive guide, we delve into the fascinating world of trapping, exploring the different types of traps and snares, their applications, and the ethical considerations involved. We will draw upon the invaluable knowledge and illustrations of renowned wildlife artist Arthur Robert Harding, whose detailed depictions of animals and hunting techniques offer invaluable insights into the intricacies of this ancient craft.

Deadfalls

Deadfalls are one of the oldest and simplest types of traps, consisting of a heavy weight suspended above a trigger. When the trigger is released, the weight falls, crushing or pinning the animal beneath it. Deadfalls are particularly effective for capturing larger game species, such as deer, moose, and elk.



Types of Deadfalls

- **Platform Deadfall:** Consists of a platform supported by sticks or poles. When an animal steps on the trigger platform, the sticks or poles give way, causing the platform to collapse and the weight to fall.

- **Guillotine Deadfall:** Features a heavy weight suspended by a cord that passes through a loop in the trigger stick. When the loop is released, the weight falls, creating a guillotine-like action that severs the animal's head.
- **Box Deadfall:** Comprises a box-shaped structure with a heavy lid. The trigger is attached to the lid, and when released, the lid falls, trapping the animal inside the box.

Constructing and Setting Deadfalls

1. Choose a suitable location where animals are likely to travel.
2. Gather sturdy materials for the weight, trigger, and supports.
3. Build the deadfall according to the desired type and size.
4. Set the trigger carefully to ensure that it will release the weight with minimal resistance.
5. Bait the trap with an attractant that is specific to the target species.
6. Monitor the trap regularly and remove any captured animals promptly.

Traps

Traps are designed to capture and hold animals alive, allowing for their subsequent release or relocation. They utilize various mechanisms, such as springs, levers, or doors, to restrain the animal without causing injury.



A cage trap, with a spring-loaded door, is set to capture a rabbit.

Types of Traps

- **Cage Trap:** Consists of a wire mesh cage with a spring-loaded door. The door is triggered when the animal steps on a treadle or breaks a trip wire.
- **Foot Trap:** Utilizes a steel or wooden jaw that snaps shut when the animal steps on a trigger. The jaws are padded to prevent injury to the animal's foot.
- **Box Trap:** Similar to a cage trap, but with solid sides and a hinged door. Animals are lured into the trap with bait and the door is closed manually.

Constructing and Setting Traps

1. Select a trap that is appropriate for the target species and size.
2. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for assembling and setting the trap.
3. Place the trap in a location where animals are likely to travel.
4. Bait the trap with an attractant that is specific to the target species.
5. Check the trap regularly and remove any captured animals promptly.

Snares

Snares are devices designed to capture and hold animals by entangling them around their necks, feet, or other body parts. They are typically made of wire or cord and are set in areas where animals are likely to pass through.



Types of Snares

- **Neck Snare:** A wire loop that is set in a location where animals are likely to pass through. When the animal's head enters the loop, it tightens around the neck, capturing the animal.
- **Foot Snare:** A wire loop that is attached to a stake or tree. When the animal steps on the loop, it tightens around the foot, trapping the animal.
- **Stopper Snare:** A snare that is designed to capture animals by their necks or feet. It consists of a running loop that tightens when the animal pulls against it.

Constructing and Setting Snares

1. Choose a snare that is appropriate for the target species and size.
2. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for constructing and setting the snare.
3. Place the snare in a location where animals are likely to travel.
4. Camouflage the snare to make it less visible to animals.
5. Check the snare regularly and remove any captured animals promptly.

Ethical Considerations

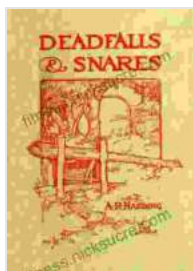
Trapping, like any hunting method, carries ethical responsibilities. It is essential to ensure that traps and snares are constructed and set in a humane manner, minimizing pain and distress to captured animals.

Trappers must also follow all applicable laws and regulations regarding trapping practices.

Additionally, it is important to consider the conservation implications of trapping. Trapping can be a valuable tool for managing wildlife populations, but it must be done in a sustainable manner to avoid depleting animal populations.

Deadfalls, traps, and snares have played a significant role in hunting practices throughout history. By understanding the different types of traps, their applications, and the ethical considerations involved, hunters can effectively and responsibly harvest game for various purposes.

The illustrations of Arthur Robert Harding, with their intricate details and vivid depictions of animals, bring the world of trapping to life. They serve as a testament to the skill and dedication required in this ancient craft, ensuring that the knowledge and techniques of trapping are passed on to future generations of hunters.



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