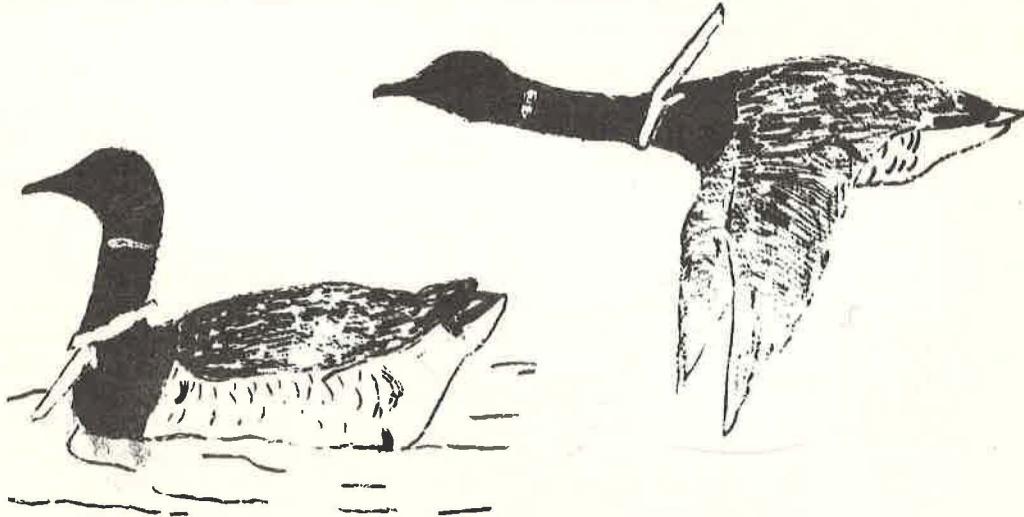


BRANT WITH YELLOW NECK-BANDS

Several hundred Brant, among 1500 banded on their tundra nesting grounds in northwestern Canada, were given brilliant yellow neck-bands.



Sight records are wanted. If you see any Brant, with or without neck-bands, send information to Thomas W. Barry, Conservation Dept., Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., as follows: 1. Date neck-banded Brant were seen. 2. Number with neck-bands. 3. Total number in flock. 4. Location. 5. Additional observations of unmarked Brant this fall.

MIST NETTING - SOME NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

(In two parts - Part II)

By John V. Dennis

6. Netting is most effective on a calm day but can be operated on a slightly windy day if placed in a woods, ravine, or other sheltered spots.

7. In an unshaded position the nets are most effectively used from dawn to about 10 A.M. and from 7 P.M. until dark (in the spring and summer months.) After mid-morning the sun glints off the netting and the net is visible to the birds. Nets can be operated all day when the sky

is overcast with little or no wind. Another factor enters into the sunny day picture and that is the fact that on a bright clear day, convection currents are set up by the sun's rays striking the earth's surface. The highest local wind velocities are usually reached by mid-afternoon and subside in the late evening. Nets may also be operated on slightly foggy days with good results.



Fig. 1. First free the legs and feet. One way is to hold the thighs - the feathered upper parts of the leg - between the thumb and first two fingers. (A leg may be broken if held by the tarsus - the bare lower part of the leg.)

8. In a woods or forest, netting is generally not good if the nets are placed at the ground level, since most of the forest birds are moving about at the tree-top level. Netting in the woods should also include nets that are at or near the tree-tops.

9. Netting is best in travel lanes between wooded areas, woods borders, and in isolated coastal thickets. Beating the brush will often drive birds into the nets. To give an illustration of how this may work - the bander gathers up his family and friends and goes to his favorite

sparrow field, sets up his nets across the field and then with the aid of his companions drives the sparrows down the field towards and into the nets.

10. Decoys, bait, dripping water, etc. near the nets add to the take. A legitimate caged bird such as the canary will often make an effective decoy. Also a native bird with a loud chip, such as the Redstart or the Hooded Warbler, may be held briefly in a carrying cage near

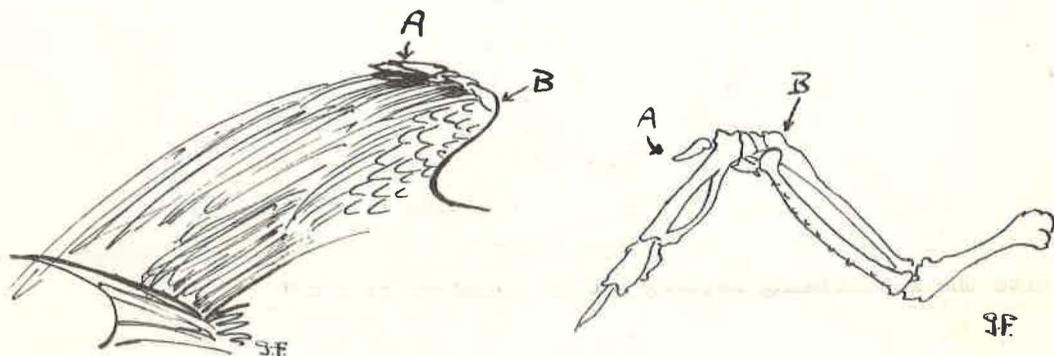


Fig. 2. "A" above refers to the vestigial thumb; "B" to the elbow of the wing. After untangling the legs and feet, the wings must be freed by easing the net strands over the elbow, taking care that they are removed also from the feathers attached to the vestigial thumb bone.

the net. Screech owl imitations and other bird-luring calls will bring the birds nearer the net and increase their chances of being captured. Certain birds like the Myrtle Warbler are easily lured to the net site and with each additional capture, the excitement grows more intense and nearly the whole flock may be taken.



Fig. 3. A net strand occasionally gets caught behind the cleft at the back of a bird's tongue. After tension has been released from the strand, a pencil or similar instrument can be used to work the strand back and off the cleft.

11. One last suggestion - it sometimes happens that a bird will bite the restraining netting and in doing so will get the net caught in behind its tongue. Always be sure that a net strand is not caught in the cleft of the tongue before attempting to remove the bird from the net.

My thanks to James Baird for his suggestions and assistance in writing this paper. ★★

CHANGES AT DEMAREST, N. J.

By Beecher S. Bowdish

Demarest is a part of an extensive area, adjacent to New York City, whose natural wildlife has been definitely and adversely affected by the overwhelming overflow of alleged non-wildlife from the metropolis! As a random sample of the effect wrought on native wildlife by introduced ?-life in superabundance, with resulting elimination of available homesites for the original furred and feathered inhabitants, a contrast is here presented of banding records for July and August, 1950, before the effect of the human influx made itself felt, and the corresponding period of 1956.

The strength of attachment of birds to a homesite where they have reared young is illustrated by an example related to me some thirty years ago by John Hendrickson, one-time Olympic shotgun