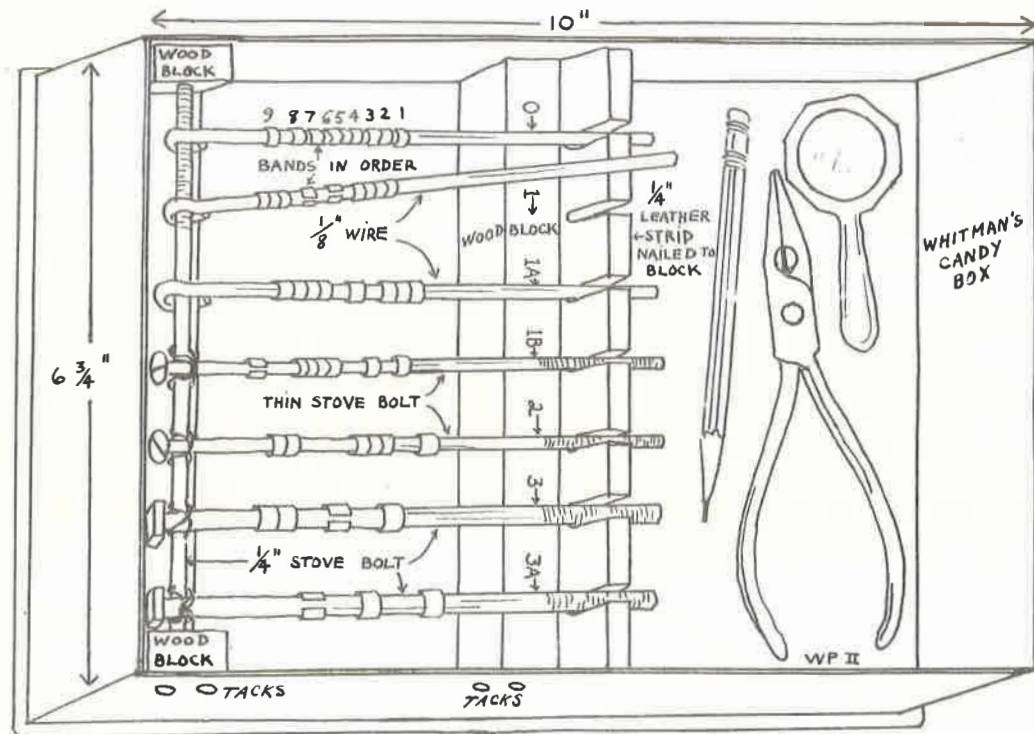


## THE PELL-WHITMAN BAND HOLDER

By Rev. Walden Pell II

Headmaster, St. Andrew's School, Middletown, Delaware

The article by Rev. Garrett S. Detwiler in the Sept-Oct 1955 issue of EBBA NEWS ("How Does One Handle Bands, for Example, on a Cold Winter Day") has inspired me to produce this article on a band holder I devised some years ago, and which has proved most satisfactory. The accompanying sketch gives the general idea of it.



First you buy a box of Whitman's candy measuring roughly 10"x6-3/4". Then you either eat the candy or put it in your traps for bait! The box is now ready for construction into the "Pell-Whitman Band Holder."

At one end and across the middle of the box wooden blocks are tacked and glued, according to the sketch. The end block holds a 1/4" stove bolt which is the axis for the wires and bolts holding the bands. On one side of the wood block is fastened a 1/4" leather strip which can be secured

from a shoemaker. The leather should be good and stiff and the grooves cut so that the wires and bolts will squeeze into them tightly. The other end of the box is used to contain supplies such as pliers, pencil and magnifying glass.

The bands are opened sufficiently to place on a bird's leg and are then slipped onto the wires or bolts in the reverse order of their serial numbers so that the band with the lowest number will be slipped off first. The band numbers are printed on top of the block adjacent to each wire or bolt.

A stenographer's note book fits between the band holders and the lid of the box so that the whole business can be carried around in a shoulder bag. The outside and lid of the box are covered in cellophane or plastic so that it can be laid on wet grass without damaging the box.

The threads of the stove bolts should be filed down somewhat so that they do not roughen the bands in the process of sliding them off. Mr. Detwiler's apparatus is much smaller than this, but the Pell-Whitman device has plenty of room for one's record book and implements, and is easily constructed of inexpensive materials.

★★★

TO NET OR NOT TO NET  
Rev. Garrett S. Detwiler

The articles appearing recently in EBBA NEWS have been informative, challenging, and, to me a relatively new bander, intensely interesting. Especially is this true concerning the recent articles on the use of Mist Nets.

The article entitled, "Mist Netting - Some Notes and Observations", by John V. Dennis (Ebba News, 19: 53-56 and 60-63), was exceptionally well written and should prove exceedingly helpful and valuable to all banders no matter how well experienced they may be in that particular practice.

The article, "Nets: More Harmful than Beneficial?", (Ebba News, 19: 74-75), was one that should cause each bander to do some very serious thinking about the whole matter of banding in general and his own methods in particular. For here is an article expressing the sincere convictions, on one particular practice employed in banding, by a group of outstanding banders whose collective banding experience would exceed more years than any one of us can ever hope to live. Such