

## COLOR BANDING

By Mrs. Gladys P. Ely

I use the regular F & W number-bands and stick on a piece of Scotch Pressure Sensitive Tape, overlapping 1/16th inch and turning the overlap inside, so that that there will not be a loose end for the bird to pick off. Most 10¢ stores, drug and hardware stores carry this tape in four to six colors.

Mystic tape, which is similar, does not work well as it is thicker, making the band too heavy. It also gets dirty and does not stick as well or as easily.

I expect in the next five or ten years we will get some interesting, and perhaps conclusive, results from our color banding of permanent residents. Most of the birds feed so close that we can identify their bands without glass

with our glasses, and so we keep track of who stays around during nesting -- and later, who returns in the fall when they flock.

I was interested to note that the Carolina Wren pair seemed to keep this area all winter. There were no other wrens but the silver and the red banded. Also, their rearing of two families so close together (that is, overlapping in time) would have led us to believe the male had two mates had we not seen their color bands.

Also this winter the White-breasted Nuthatch did not flock, for among the large number of downys, chickadees and titmice there were but two - until early spring an unbanded nuthatch mated with one of the two.

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## A WATER DRIP SYSTEM

By Mrs. Marie Dumont

Here is a suggestion for a good way to have a constant water drip for traps, though I must admit it's not a very cheap affair. I saw this method in operation at the home of Mrs. Beals, in Elmhurst, Long Island, N.Y. Her husband had obtained copper tubing and connected it to an outdoor water faucet. He then ran a length of the tubing to various spots in the backyard, which incidentally had a goodly number of trees to which the tubing could be wired high enough above the ground so as to permit walking underneath.

At each spot where a water supply was needed a pet cock was soldered, so a drop of water could be released or a larger amount if necessary. This was a permanent affair and in cold weather could be drained to prevent freezing and bursting of piping. It was the best thing I ever saw, as it never needed attention except if one wanted to be away and then it could just be turned off at the main source of supply.

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