

## BANDING SHOREBIRDS AT THE TINICUM WILDLIFE PRESERVE

By John C. Miller

Here are the results of my banding shorebirds at the Tinicum Wildlife Preserve, and information that might be of some help to those interested in banding shorebirds.

I use aluminum poles 8 feet long and an ordinary flashlight. I do my banding in the early morning hours, and I find that you don't start getting birds in the nets until it begins getting light. That is why I do not use a headlight. All you need the flashlight for is to see what way the birds get into the nets, but if you do banding in the evening hours use a headlight.

I have tried both the evening hours and early morning hours for shorebirds, and find the early morning hours much more productive. I used the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh mist nets to catch shorebirds, but it takes longer to get the birds out of them. So if you can get a larger mesh it will be easier to use.

Look for a place where shorebirds are feeding or resting on high tides or low tides. If there is any wind put up your nets so that they don't pull tight at one end. Set your nets so that there is about a foot and a half to spare under the lowest trammel. This is so that any birds getting caught in the lowest net section will not get wet or muddy when their weight pulls the net down. Don't put too many nets up if you are alone. You won't be able to handle the birds if they start getting caught. I use four nets myself.

My results from 12 different dates this year, banding in the early morning, are:

Semipalmated Plover	1	White-rumped Sandpiper	6
Killdeer	3	Dunlin (Red-backed)	2
Black-bellied Plover	1	Long Billed Dowitcher	1
Lesser Yellow Legs	2	Stilt Sandpiper	4
Pectoral Sandpiper	19	Semipalmated Sandpiper	53
Total			92

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WATER DRIP PAIL COVERS  
By Geoffrey Gill

When using a water drip pail either suspended or on a nearby stump, use a cover on the pail to keep out falling leaves, debris and even young birds. A cover can be made of light tin, a tar-paper shingle cut to size with shears. A pot lid can be purchased for a few cents at any notion store.

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