

HOW TO DO IT

More Readable #0 Bands - Banders are always so glad to be able to read the numbers of a #0 band when a returned bird brings it back. All reflections are gone, the figures are often filled with dirt and have become very distinct. The same condition can be artificially produced by placing the original string of one hundred bands on a paper and daubing shoe blacking over and around the bands until all gloss is gone, and the numbers are filled with blacking. Wipe the excess away with a cloth, and you can readily read the numbers without a lens. I used warmed Shinola with a wax base. I am processing all small sized bands this way. Try it.
-- Bennett K. Matlack, Cottage Ave. & Oxford St., Bridgeton, N.J.

Distinguishing Juvenile Downy & Hairy Woodpeckers - The adults of both species have white rimal feathers (eyelashes) on their lower eyelids and on a portion of their upper lids. The juveniles of both species lack these white rimal feathers. I do not have sufficient data to say just when these rimal feathers grow in but according to my records they are beginning to appear about six weeks after the time of banding. Most of our juvenile Hairy Woodpeckers are banded within a few days after the parents have brought them to our feeders.
-- Elizabeth Holt Downs, Glebe Farm, South Londonderry, Vermont.

Wooden Blocks for Keeping Trap Doors Closed - Regarding doors on traps. I advocate the use of wooden blocks to keep these closed. Wood does not freeze to the ground - at least a good kick will always free it. It is not as heavy as a "rock", and preferable to any wire or other fixed latch, inasmuch as it releases a squirrel if one gets in automatically, usually before damage is done to the birds caught. This, I feel, is a definite advantage. We have settled on a piece about 5" long cut from a 2 x 4.
-- Edwin A. Mason, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton, Mass.

FOR SALE
To EBBA members only

MULTI-CELL GATHERING CAGES

Light weight, wooden, beautifully finished with Spar varnish. These boxes are made to order, with costs of materials and small labor charge by hobbyist. Prices as follows:

8-cell	\$10.00
10-cell	12.50
12-cell	15.00
15-cell	18.75
16-cell	20.00

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