

Liven A. Peterson  
Grand Island, Nebraska  
(from Inland B.B.A. News)

My year-round netting area is a shelterbelt associated with several nearby brush clumps and grain fields. It is located on the Grand Island, Nebraska, municipal airport property. I also operate baited traps in this area.

I have found that placement of nets must vary with the seasons to get best results. During the fall, winter and spring seasons birds are frequently present in small, restless flocks. These birds can often be driven into the nets by carefully walking through the cover and herding them like a band of sheep. One soon learns the more favored routes followed by birds, and the proper pattern of net placement is determined by trial and error.

Driving birds is an art in itself. If done too rapidly they may fly far over the net. If too slowly, they may disperse and drift around or away from the net. The best method is to keep them hopping along from bush to bush in low, short flights. At the critical moment one should step more rapidly so that the birds will flush forward directly into the net. Sometimes a car can be parked in a location that will help to direct the birds in a certain direction. An assistant or a scarecrow made of an old coat can accomplish the same thing.

At my shelterbelt, small flocks of birds occasionally break out and fly across a field to a nearby patch of red cedars. By placing a net across the side of the patch facing the shelterbelt many birds are caught just at the end of their flight. Tree, Lincoln, Song and Clay-colored Sparrows are the species most frequently netted by driving small flocks in this area.

I usually set up 3 or 4 nets and move continuously from one net to the next until I am through banding for the day. If the usual number of birds are present in the area, 4 nets are all I can take care of alone.

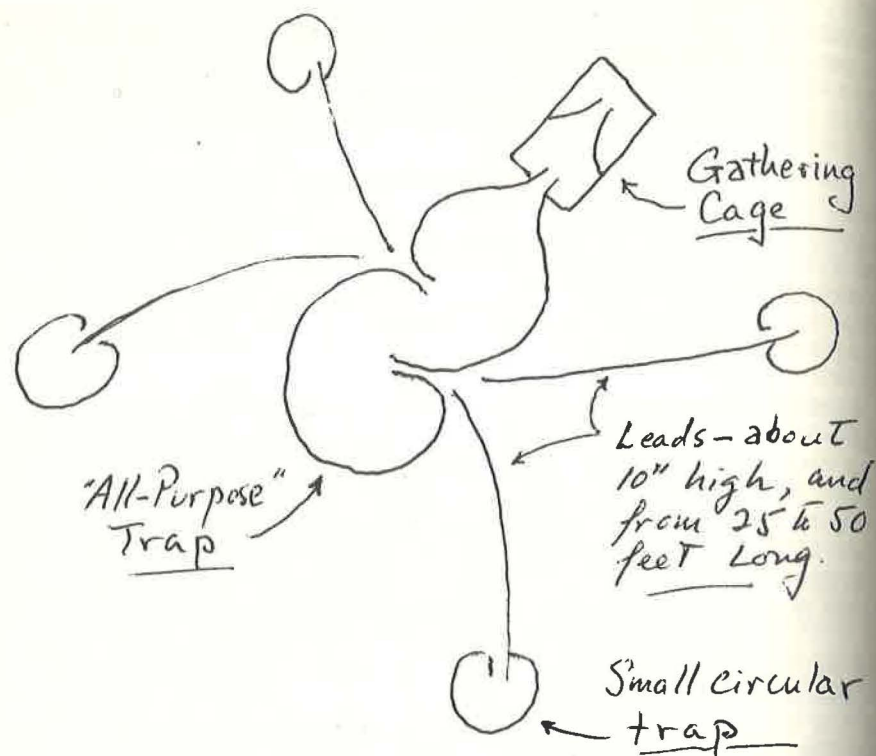
\*\*\*

#### SHOREBIRD BANDING IN VERMONT

By Bruce Adams

When I went to Vermont to attend college, I anticipated plenty of interesting banding. But I never expected that a major part of that banding would be with shorebirds.

Since 1957, Normand St. Jaques has been trapping shorebirds at a mud flat area on the shore of Lake Champlain. Although we have since tried nets, they have not been very successful as the birds seem adept at dodging the nets. The banding has been accomplished almost entirely with a modified version of the all-purpose trap, shown in the diagram below.



The circular traps at the lead-ends opposite the all-purpose took fewer birds, but served to catch those that chose to run in that direction when arriving at the lead. There were generally about ten in the all-purpose for every one in a circular cage. The circular cages are about the size of a Brenckle trap. The whole trap has caught as many as 35 birds at a time, and it has also caught Savannah Sparrows along with the shorebirds.

The success of this trap rests in the fact that we have a presence of mud flats and an absence of tides. From the last week in August, through September, as the water in the lake goes down, there is a perpetual low tide, so to speak. This enables us to leave the trap out continually without having to worry about its becoming covered with water. Stanley Dickerson recently remarked to me that development of a portable all-purpose trap would be a big asset to banding. It would partially solve the tide problem, where the banding was done in a mud flat area which is present only during low tide.

In a recent article about Piping Plovers in the AUK, Leroy Wilcox mentioned that the bands on many return birds were worn and thin. We did not notice this on the only two returns we had, but future returns may be different.

T. Gilbert Pearson's "Birds of America" states that the Yellow-legs is "easily attracted to decoys, hence a favorite with the gunners" (in the days when it was a game bird). I found this to be true; in fact they seem to be attracted to the trap when any kind of bird is in it. Although I banded only two this year, they were chronic repeaters, often together.

## Banding Totals

	1957	1958	1959
White-rumped Sandpiper	1		
Least Sandpiper	18	30	30
Semipalmated Sandpiper	175	35	60
Sanderling	36		4
Spotted Sandpiper	5		
Killdeer	1	1	
Semipalmated Plover	10	1	
Ruddy Turnstone	9		
Pectoral Sandpiper		1	
Dowitcher		1	
Lesser Yellow-legs			2

Returns: One Semipalmated Sandpiper banded July 29, 1958, returned on August 28, 1959; and one Sanderling banded September 10, 1957, returned on September 4, 1959.

Burlington, Vermont

\*\*\*



## WHO BANDED THE MOST OF WHAT?

Edited by Lillian Cardinali



Here is the second installment of who banded the mostest in EBBA territory in 1959 (or by EBBA members nearby), according to reports received by this department. Those members who haven't yet sent in their 1959 totals, and those whose figures top the numbers printed here, are urged to send them to Mrs. Cardinali immediately -- RD 2, Box 460, Jamesburg, N.J.

AQU	Species	Bander	No.
387	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Gladys Cole (Md.)	14
388	Black-billed Cuckoo	Mr. & Mrs. S.S. Dickerson (Misc)	12
		Walter K. Bigger (N.J. & Pa.)	7
		Mabel Warburton (Pa.)	4
390	Belted Kingfisher	Mr. & Mrs. S.S. Dickerson (Misc)	4