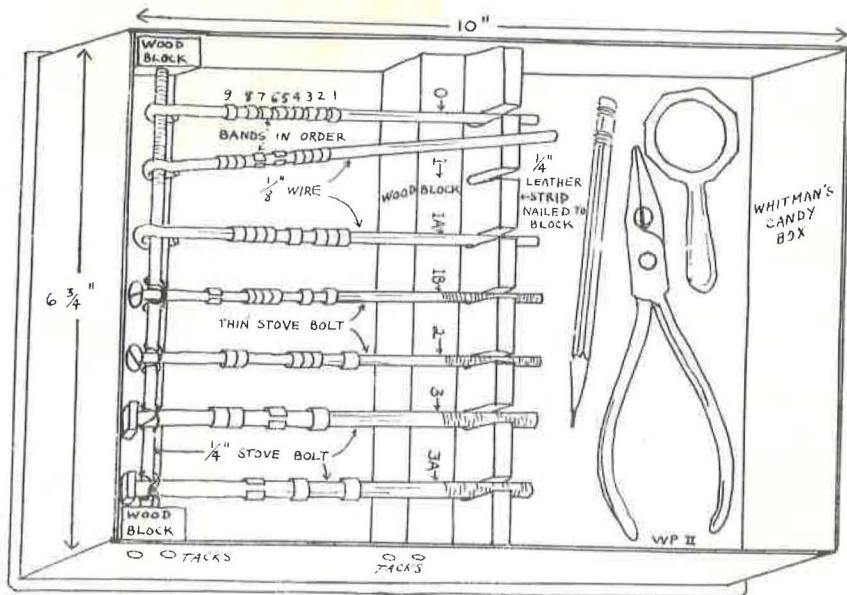


HOW THEY DO IT

Being Hints for New Banders (and Reminders for Veterans) from back issues of EBBA NEWS

THE PELL-WHITMAN BAND HOLDER by Rev. Walden Pell II (Jan-Feb 1957, p. 8.)
The accompanying sketch gives the general idea of a band holder I devised some years ago, which has proved most satisfactory.



First you buy a box of Whitman's candy measuring roughly 10" x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ " stove bolt which is the axis for the wires and bolts holding the bands. On one side of the wood block is fastened a $\frac{1}{4}$ " 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 hold such supplies 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 (i.e. numbers referring to size).

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.

SOME TIPS ABOUT BANDS FOR THE NEW BANDER by Mrs. Frank L. Townsend (July-August 1957, p. 52). When the bands first arrive, acquaint yourself as thoroughly as possible with the sizes and numbers. This will make things much easier when you actually start banding.

In the beginning you will find it necessary to check your list of band sizes with each new species trapped. Most of the time you will want to follow the band sizes suggested by the Banding Office. Occasionally, however, you will find that the suggested size is too loose or too tight, as birds' legs vary, especially in some species. You will find it easier to judge as you go along, but a leg gauge will prove helpful - one can be purchased from the Massachusetts Audubon Society at a nominal cost.

A band is too tight when it can't be turned or moved up and down freely. This is important as a too tight band interferes with circulation and may result in the withering and loss of the leg, or even death from gangrene. A too loose band is not nearly so likely to be dangerous, but it may interfere with the foot or catch on small twigs or the like.

Equally important is that the band be properly closed. It should be tightly closed, the ends in alignment and no overlap. Birds with powerful bills, such as Cardinals, have been known to crush an ill-fitting band until it is imbedded in the leg, in an effort to remove it.

FOREHEAD INJURIES by Mrs. Ernest E. Wanek (July-August 1953, p. 6). During our banding experience, we have discovered that a number of birds had injured foreheads and, at times, also injured chins, when removed from the traps. The cause seemed to be that, in their attempt to escape, they forced their mandibles through the hardware cloth, and since the openings were half-inch squares, received flesh wounds when more than their bills protruded.

We experimented with quarter-inch hardware cloth, which, in every instance so far, has eliminated the flesh wounds, although at times the bill itself may at times be slightly scraped. Dr. Paul Fluck gives the following advice about such injuries: "Best treatment for sore noses is