

NOTES ON THE NETTING SESSION

By Frank P. Frazier

Random notes, made from a tape recording of the Netting Session, conducted by Dr. Jeff Swinebroad, at the Annual Meeting in Cape May follow:

POLES: "We use long bamboo poles which we obtain from wholesale rug houses. . . Also, thin-walled electrical conduit, cut in half and joined at will with connectors (both may be purchased at an electrical supply store). . . we make holes in the ground with a soil auger." (Mrs. Gail C. Cannon) - "I use Reynolds Metal aluminum poles of 1/2" and 1" diameter. The 1" pole slips over the 1/2" pole, making two level nets possible. A small nail slipped through holes in the ends of the poles clamps them together when extended. I use a regular mesh net on the bottom pole, a warbler net on the top pole. . . Some birds go in the higher net, never in the lower net, and vice versa. . . Ovenbirds, Black-and-white Warblers, and thrushes always go in the lower nets -- other warblers in the higher nets. . ." Another bander observed: "A water drip brings the warblers down to ground level. . ."

NETS: Mrs. Betty Knorr reported that Don Bleitz (whose nets and poles she uses) is developing sand-colored nets for shore birds -- other colored nets, including a transparent or colorless net, and even an underwater net to catch grebes. She uses 60' long nets. . . she occasionally uses Bleitz' hummingbird nets and finds them strong enough to catch Whip-poor-wills.

DECOYS: "Stuffed owl somewhat successful. . . One swallow left in the nets for a short period lures others into nets."

TENSION: "Several rubber bands, in series, can be shortened at will to retain tension. . ." Mrs. Cannon said, "I attach rubber bands to poles with short lengths of string. The string can be shortened at will. . ." "Be sure to leave room enough for nets to blow in the wind and not get caught in hooks on poles. . ."

OVER NIGHT: "OK to leave nets up over night if cats, dogs, deer, etc., are not liable to be in vicinity. . . If nets are to be left on poles (but out of way of animals), push all trammels together at the poles, and fasten along the net length every 2 or 3 feet with clothes pins (Mrs. Cannon) or elastic bands. . ."

NET MAINTENANCE: "When mending a hole, don't tie up edges tight. . . To mend trammel lines, use a long needle when net is stretched - but unfasten the loop at the pole end of the line you are drawing through the net. . . remember that waxing a thread makes it the stronger. . ."

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