

The metal tube is 2 1/8 inches in length and 3/8 inches in diameter, and is of aluminum, from TV aerial material.



The washer-bolt setup:

The washers are just large enough to hold the pins on the tube. The end of the bolt was cut off just beyond the nut, and hammered wider, rivet-like, to create a permanent setup.



The safety clip is made out of thin hanger-wire also, and is 2 3/4 inches long, with a space just wider than the pin-wire. It can be slipped over all shafts but one when banding several birds using the same band size, or over all but two, etc., as well as over all of the shafts when carrying the rig from place to place.



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TWO NEW HAZARDS TO NETTED BIRDS

By Gilbert S. Raynor

Most banders who use nets have experienced attacks on captive birds by hawks, cats, or other predators. Two new, although minor, dangers to netted birds may now be reported. On September 24, 1961, a Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*) was caught in the lower section of a net located in a wooded swamp bordering a small river. Upon inspecting the net, a large Bull Frog (*Rana catesbeiana*) was seen to have the bird, entangling net and all, almost completely swallowed. The woodpecker, when rescued, was understandably indignant and wet with saliva but otherwise unharmed.

On August 24, 1963, a net was strung in a lane that had not been used for some time. A number of birds were removed without incident and other inspection trips made to the net, but a subsequent visit disclosed a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) hanging motionless and almost covered with angry Yellow-jackets (*Vespula maculifrons*). Dozens of others flew in and out of the previously unnoticed nest hole located in the ground directly below the bird. Apparently the bird's struggles so close to the nest aroused the wasps whose venom must have caused almost instant death. Not until after dark could the bird be removed and the nest eliminated.

Manorville, New York

SOME STATION RETURNS -- 1962

Paul Fluck sends us the 1962 returns of his banding station at the Washington Crossing Nature Center, Pennsylvania. (He notes that birds are figured as returns only once each year.) Many of the Grackles, he says, have been rebanded four times, as otherwise they would have had to be banded again as new birds. Grackle bands should be replaced every year, he believes, and states that he is even replacing woodpecker bands after this year.

The list of 1962 returns follows:

Ring-necked Pheasant	2
Mourning Dove	41
Hairy Woodpecker	4
Downy Woodpecker	42
Blue Jay	32
Yellowshafted Flicker	3
Starling	35
Brown-headed Cowbird	20
Baltimore Oriole	1
Common Grackle	242
Purple Finch	1
Goldfinch	104
White-throated Sparrow	72
Tree Sparrow	10
Field Sparrow	4
Slate-colored Junco	59
Song Sparrow	13
Fox Sparrow	5
Rufous-sided Towhee	2
Cardinal	37
Red-eyed Vireo	2
Worm-eating Warbler	1
Ovenbird	3
Kentucky Warbler	2
Catbird	28
Brown Thrasher	1
House Wren	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Tufted Titmouse	17
Black-capped Chickadee	6
Carolina Chickadee	9
Wood Thrush	16
Robin	2
Total	819

POPSQUASH--THE CROWDED ISLAND
By Bruce Adams

About half a mile from the Vermont shore in St. Alban's Bay, Lake Champlain, lies Popsquash Island (also called "Popasquash"). The island is shaped like a giant round cake, and resembles one at a distance, with the conspicuous white "frosting" clearly showing that it is populated by many nesting birds. The steep sides are about 25 feet high, and the top surface is about one acre in area.



Popsquash Island is occupied during the nesting season by two species-- Common Terns and Ring-billed Gulls. What makes it a particularly interesting breeding colony is the change in population balance which has taken place in the past few years. Since 1957, the Ring-billed Gulls have increased in numbers and apparently pushed out most of the Terns. Exactly what has caused the change in population is a matter of speculation.

The banding records of the late Normand St. Jacques show that in 1957 he banded 220 Terns and no Gulls. He did not visit the island in 1958, and to my knowledge no one else banded there that year. On July 19, 1959, he and I visited Popsquash and banded only one Tern. The low number was due to the late date of the visit, and we had no way of knowing if there were any Gulls that year, or how many. We believe Terns were numerous that year, but there was only one fledgling who could not yet fly.

In June of 1960, I banded 71 Terns and 26 Ring-billed Gulls. The following year, a definite change had taken place, and I banded 88 Ring-bills and 28 Terns. In 1962 the total was 59 Gulls and 34 Terns with a noticeable reduction in unhatched Tern eggs. In 1963 I banded 176 Gulls. There was one Tern chick large enough to be banded, two which were too small, ten unhatched Tern eggs, and about ten destroyed Tern eggs.