

THE "FRIDAY NIGHT" DISPLAY--1964 ANNUAL MEETING
By Christopher N. Rose

An interesting collection of egg and skin specimens, banding aides and specialized equipment were available for "first nighters" and the early registrants Saturday morning.

Considerable interest was shown in the Skin Identification Contest prepared by Dr. Jeff Swinebroad's department. He willingly admitted to selecting his "trickiest" skins to try us on. Bob Pyle topped the field of contestants (see photo).

Mrs. Elise Dickerson and Mrs. Nabel Warburton presented a series of Black and White photos covering some of the "rarities" which have been banded at Island Beach Operation Recovery.

If you are interested in egg identification in connection with nestling banding, the Ornithology Lab at Douglass College is certainly a source of information. They placed on display some fifty species of eggs out of a collection of over 150 species which have been identified and are available for study by qualified "birders." My personal experience with egg identification has revealed that very few good references with colored plates have been published in recent years.

Walter Bigger built a special Nest Trap (see photo) with a removable side to show the inner workings for those who are handy at do-it-yourselfing. Robert Ford has developed what in my opinion is a most effective Woodpecker trap. It features a "drop door," triggered by a piece of mono-filiment fish line--placed in such a position as to brush the birds back about (1/3) one-third the way up in the trap. Both of these gentlemen turn in a craftsman like job on their traps. Variations of the Potter Trap are their standard effort--but their true inventiveness can be seen in the Nest and Woodpecker traps.

The mist nets loaned by the Bleitz Wildlife Foundation caught my interest. In addition to the standard black models, they have nylon nets dyed to match the background in the netting areas, white for snow or beach, green for foliage, dark brown for mud flats and shore bird banding. The most practical innovation now being added to the black nets are colored loops (white and red) on the trammels to identify "opposite" ends and top from bottom. This saves the tying of colored embroidery floss to the loops--which has been my standard practice.

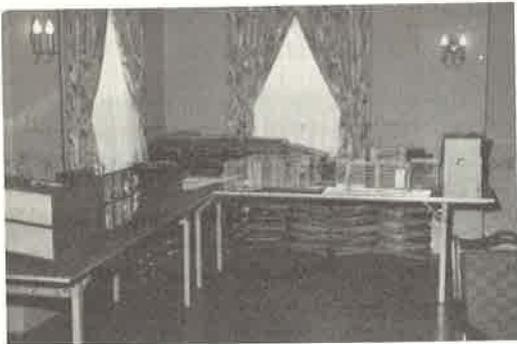
I noticed considerable attention centered around the very light weight "hard" aluminum net poles which have been developed by the Bleitz Foundation. They offer a ready solution for banders who work over sand or on mud flats, since the lower section of the poles are provided with a solid "hard" aluminum point which should penetrate anything short of solid rock or our east coast "blue hard pan."

There were many other items too numerous to detail (see photo) Hummingbird bands, Ohaus Scales, McDonald Pliers, Squeeze Klip Pliers and Kits, Holding Bags, Canvas Field Kit for banding equipment, were just a few--but you couldn't help going away with ideas or solutions to some of your banding problems.

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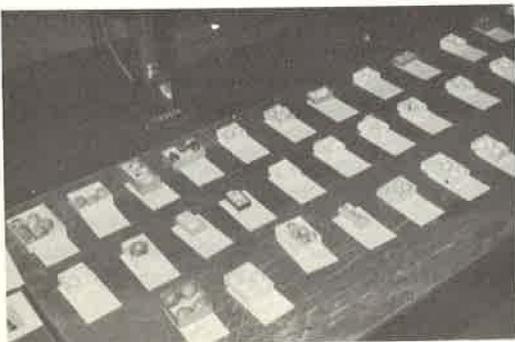
Above: Robert Pyle, a winner of a bird skin identification award; Mrs. Mendenhall, and Mrs. Bordner, at the Bird Skin Display. (Photo by Anderson J. Martin)



At left: Fred Mears, top winner at identification, making up his mind.

Traps and other bander's gear on display.

Douglass College egg collection. (Photos by Christopher N. Rose)



Above: At the Annual Banquet, Dr. Jeff Swinebroad gives Fred Mears his prize.



Left: Benjamin Shaub and Dr. Robert Yunick examine traps on display.



Right: Robert Partle, John Bull, with Mrs. Partle and Mrs. Bull, study traps and other banders' gear. (Top photo by Frank P. Frazier, others by Anderson J. Martin)

