

found the nest containing two young), the Black Vultures, the Bewick Wren that sang for most campers, the playful Ravens, the song of the Veeries, the large number and variety of birds along Poverty Creek Road, Fred Kift and his mail call, Dr. Burt, and his charts, the many cherry trees that were really loaded with cherries, the nightly movies and the campfires - those wonderful campfires that are a tradition at every Foray.

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THE NET, THE LENS, THE BRUSH AND THE TAPE

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Few people other than 'ringers' or 'banders' have the opportunity of such intimate inspection of living creatures as interesting as birds. This not only lets you make detailed observations of color and pattern of various plumages, of immatures and adults, of individual differences in markings and behavior, but certainly gives you firm confidence in field identification of species you have handled.

Speaking as a non-bander, and with limited experience in helping with mist netting or even seeing it done, I can freely offer some advice. Share your temporary 'captives' with three (or more) specialists. First, the lens. On an expedition to Puerto Rico, my companion, EBBA member Stephen Harty, had his mist nets up in areas never before worked in this way. With a single lens reflex 35 m.m. camera, he took facial close-ups of such interesting species as the Puerto Rican Tody (*Todus mexicanus*), Adelaide's Warbler (*Dendroica adelaidae*) and the Robin-like Zorzal or Red-legged Thrush (*Mimocichla plumbea*). These color shots are not only artistic but give valuable information on coloration of soft parts, eyes and facial feathers. If a friend of yours is a shutter bug, invite him or her to your net lars - but NOT, of course, on a big day! It would be better when a very few birds are coming in to help pass the time away.

Second, the Brush. We don't need any more bird paintings, you say? Your established and experienced artist friend may not want to paint from a bird in hand or collection box, but how many young budding artists now in grade school or college wouldn't welcome the chance and challenge of sketching a Sparrow Hawk or Crested Flycatcher?

The Tape. The most frequent sound you may hear of a bird in net or hand is an alarm or distress note. I have had my tape recorder at several net lanes. The different yet similar descending alarm calls given by the Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Brown Creeper, and several Vireos are making an interesting collection. Such sounds, no doubt inherent, may be of value as another index of relationships between species, and extension of the study to less well-known species in exotic areas by a net and tape team is welcome. With Pigeon Hawks now rare in New Jersey, I was particularly glad to get from a netted bird at Island Beach, a good series of its calls, as well as some color movies at the same time.

You have the species, its weight, sex, probable age, direction of travel; let's have more photos, paintings and sound.