

This method of capturing birds for banding purposes possesses the excitement and anticipation of a treasure hunt, but may not be very practical in areas where the number of potential roosting sites are unlimited. However, within the confines of ones own backyard or immediate neighborhood it may be worthwhile to search the shrubbery and small trees to learn where your local Mockingbird, Cardinal, or Robin sleep. Even if the bird is out of reach the search is not wasted. By keeping notes on the type of vegetation selected, height above ground, location within the tree or shrub, etc., one can accumulate data that would represent a valuable contribution to the ornithological literature.

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WHO IS COLOR-MARKING RING-BILLED GULLS?

Among the hundreds of gulls on our Florida beaches this winter, I spotted two young Ring-bills that, in addition to a metal F&WS band on the right leg, bore a numbered colored tab on the left leg. The tabs looked like yellow oilcloth or plastic, perhaps an inch or an inch and a half square, and the figures were large enough so that I could read them clearly with my binoculars at about 20 feet, which was as close as I could get to the birds. If whoever marked these birds will send me the banding data, I will be glad to report to him the tab numbers and the date and place I read them. This is an intriguing technique that offers nice possibilities for yielding recovery data without having to catch and handle the bird.

Oliver L. Austin, Jr., Florida State Museum, Gainesville, Florida 32601.



DECOYS

Bob Yunick writes: "As a result of the EBBA meeting there appears to be a fair amount of interest by some people in making silhouette shore bird decoys. If anyone is having difficulty enlarging the silhouettes from EBBA News of a year or so ago (Vol. 28, No. 1, pp 7-15) drop me a note and I'll send them a full-sized tracing of the blanks as I use them."

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