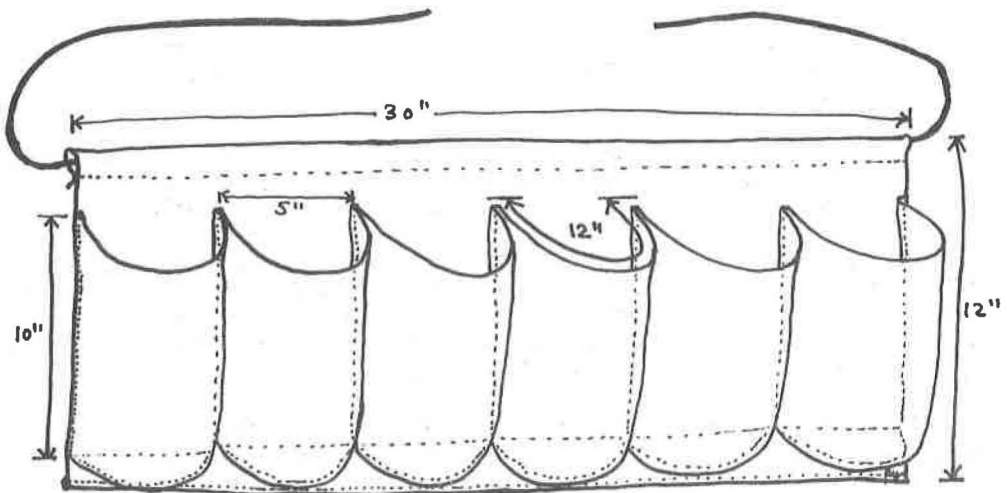


AN APRON FOR MIST NETS
By Robert P. Yunick

Often, while in the process of setting mist nets, when banding away from my yard, I have been plagued with a lack of enough hands to carry everything I needed. There have usually been too many trips back and forth to the car for poles, nets, guy lines, pole connectors, hammer and pipe for making holes in hard ground, etc. Depending on the distance, these trips could be time consuming and when I have been eager to get going, they were very exasperating. I have found that a simple apron worn about my waist can free my hands of a good portion of the above mentioned equipment and reduce considerably the trips required to get the equipment positioned, and aid materially in the setting of nets.

When not in use, one of my mist nets is gathered at arm's length, with the rubber bands on each set of trammels secured by two shower curtain clips, and rolled into a tight ball held by a rubber band. As such, a six-meter net is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and the 12-meter nets vary from 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches depending on mesh size and manufacture. Usually the smaller mesh-size nets are bulkier.

The apron was designed with six pockets, each capable of carrying three six-meter or two 12-meter nets. One pocket is reserved for pole connectors, rubber bands, guy lines and small odds and ends. The five pockets allow me to carry ten 12-meter nets and have both hands free to manage poles and associated equipment, so that in one foray from the car, I can set up to ten nets. It is also used to collect nets after furling.



My wife, who made the apron, says that it is made of denim. In two years of use, it shows hardly any wear. The dimensions and shape are given in the drawing. The apron in use now has nine-inch deep pockets and 11 inches of material per pocket; however, the ten-inch depth and 12-inch dimension are recommended to accomodate the bulkiest of 24mm. and 30mm. mesh nets. The apron fastens to the waist by a cord which passes through a foldover at the top of the apron.

It has proven a valuable aid in field, meadow, mud flat and atop sand banks, especially when the nets are set some distance from a car.

1527 Myron St., Schenectady 9, N.Y.



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET PLUMAGES

By G. Hapgood Parks

From July 24 to September 9, 1966, we netted 33 Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Monhonon's Cove in Milbridge, Maine. This group included an adult male, 2 adult females and 30 immatures.

In an attempt to sex the immatures we "combed" each individual's downy crown feathers forward with a horizontally-held toothpick in such a manner as to reveal any pinfeathers which might be developing there.

110-93102 had a single "ruby"-tufted pinfeather when he was captured on Aug. 9. He repeated on Aug. 11 and 13, still showing only that same single mark of the color.

Of the remaining 29 immatures none carried any red in the crown feathers the first time it was captured. Six of these repeated a total of 9 times between Aug. 9 and Sep. 9 without showing the color.

Our only other repeat, 110-93005, provided the most significant data. Banded on Aug. 3 with no "ruby" in its crown this bird repeated on Aug. 10 still without any of the color. When he repeated again on Aug. 30, however, his crown was so full of red-tufted pinfeathers as to approach closely the appearance of an adult male.

We do not care to draw a conclusion based on so few data, but our experience seems to suggest that immature Ruby-crowned Kinglets can be plumage-sexed successfully during the month of September and thereafter.

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