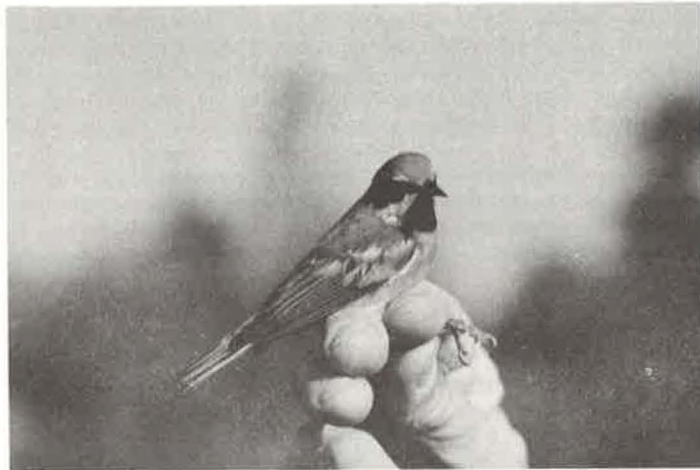


Features like the golden-winged warbler were: 1. The throat, chin and cheeks were jet black; 2. Broad submalar stripes and narrower superciliary lines were white; 3. The wing patch was bright yellow.

Features like the blue-winged warbler were: 1. The center of the back was greenish-yellow although it faded to gray on the sides; 2. The upper breast was bright yellow. This yellow, did not, however, extend all the way down the breast but only about halfway to the crissum where it changed to white. The crissum was white.

This bird had an ossified skull and no fat. I called it an AHY-Male Lawrence's Warbler.



Lawrence's Warbler banded August 19, 1972
by the author

--Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, New York 13903.

A VISIT HELPS

By Robert McCullough

Twelve years ago I was issued a permit to band birds. I had to depend on back issues of *EBBA News* and make phonecalls to Mrs. Mary Schmid at her New York office. When I decided to try nets to supplement the traps I had bought and made, she said I might as well go to one of the best for my instructions. At her suggestion I made an appointment with Mrs. Eleanor Dater or Ramsey, New Jersey. She was then the president of EBBA, and to me this seemed quite awesome. I realized later that she had gone to considerable trouble to set things up for me on a poor day, and arrange for an assistant to be there.

On that day I realized how much I would have to learn to become a qualified bander. My wife accompanied me and we enjoyed the visit. Mrs. Dater was a wonderful instructor. I wanted to take some pictures but she said "We have no time for pictures, we're here to find out about nets." There was an unusual net for high flying birds that Mr. Dater had made. When I told her my favorite bird was a Chickadee she said that might change when I started using nets. I often think of her and that day, especially when a bird comes out "Dater Method" the way it is supposed to come out.

The following year I called Mrs. Dickerson at Island Beach and arranged to visit there for a day. It was a busy one and observing and helping experienced banders with wing measure weighing, identification, and gathering birds was a valuable contribution to the knowledge that I was trying to acquire. Everyone was busy that day, and I was able to be helpful, but all found time to give me some guidance and answer questions.

For the next several years I attended many annual meetings and met many banders. I didn't make another visit to one until recently. The excuse for this was brought about by a neighbor in our New Jersey banding area asking me to band her Purple Martin colony. We don't have Purple Martins and I thought I would arrange to see Ralph Bell when I went to Pennsylvania to see my cousin who lives near his farm.

The meeting was arranged by phone and my wife, cousin, and her husband accompanied me. We got lost on the way and came in to Ralph's farm by some back route that Ralph said he hardly knew himself.

First of all I felt familiar with the place from reading his *Diary*. He took me into his office while Mrs. Bell engaged the ladies in other fields of conversation. The next issue of his *Diary* was about, written on the back of letters and any

other miscellaneous paper around. He played a tape recording he had made for the breeding season, three minutes at 25 mile intervals. My cousin wandered in and he complimented her on picking out a warbler.

Since I asked about Martins, he brought out his records of returns and recoveries and the banding dates for nestlings. A large closet was his reservoir for reference. It was surely a ton of magazines and material of all sorts. Everything was neatly arranged on shelves to the ceiling, and on the floor up as well.

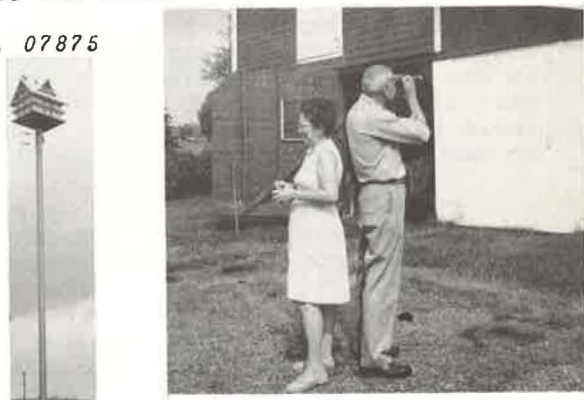
We went out to his banding shed, where I was interested in the bird gathering pails he had made. We went up on the roof to see his Starling traps, he had a Starling in one. I liked his water drip trap and winter bird shelter, giving me ideas for improving my own. While we looked at his Martin houses he gave me some pointers on Purple Martin identification. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was sounding off faintly from the wooded area nearby and he asked me if I had any around my place and I had to say "No."

The accompanying photo portrays Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bell, trying out my battery operated zoom binoculars looking in the direction of his Sparrow Hawk nest, where the racoon disaster described in a recent *Diary* occurred. Mrs. Bell is standing near the martin house that she got him for his birthday (*second photo*)

My Pennsylvania cousin and her husband were very impressed with the visit. I had certainly taken them to the right place to see what bird banding was like, and the kind of people it can attract.

A little visiting around helped me determine what kind of a bander I wanted to be. It also helped determine what to do with this banding experience and data.

--Box 174, Stillwater, N.J. 07875



BIRD TRAPPING WITH A TAPE RECORDER

By B. J. Speek

In 1966, a small Dutch Ringing Group, Mr. Koning, Mr. Van Spanje and Mr. Vader, operating in the dunes some miles south of Zandvoort, discovered that it was easy to decoy Meadow pipits (*Anthus pratensis*) to their clapnets by playing the song of this species with a tape recorder.

The trapping area of the clapnet is 10 x 3.8 meters. Two rows of turfs with high grass are placed in this area. In one of the rows a loudspeaker is hidden.

This speaker is connected to a tape recorder in a hide. The recorder has an output of 1 Watt. The song of the Meadow Pipit is taken from a record, the best phrases being repeated after each other on the tape, so that the recorder plays unceasing the song of the Meadow Pipit.

Most of the birds land beside the net and then walk to the loudspeaker. The clumps of high grass are necessary partly to hide the speaker, but more so to attract the birds. Meadow Pipits don't like short grass, (they prefer to creep in high grass). Catches are usually 1-5 birds, sometimes more.

In Holland, the trapping period is August-November. The peak is the last week of September - first week of October. The best time of the day is 0800 to 1300 hours.

Normally a Dutch fowling yard (*banding station. Ed.*) along the coast catches 30-40 Meadow Pipits in one autumn. Now they catch with one clapnet 2000 individuals in 70 days.

With a 6m long clapnet I trapped in my own garden, 200 kilometers inland, 314 pipits in 14 days during October 1969.

That the influence of this trapping method for ringing purposes is important may be seen from the concluding table:

Meadow Pipits ringed in Holland

1911-1965:	5454	(without recording)
1966:	2057	(with tape recording)
1967:	4163	"
1968:	3379	"
1969:	6558	"
1970:	8150	"
1971:	4260	"