

The cover can be made of any convenient material, although a waterproof material may be desirable. One of the least expensive blind covers can be made by sewing two wool sacks together. Wool sacks are rectangular and measure 7 x 3 feet. These sacks are designed to be opened along either side. Hence, one can open one side of each wool sack and sew them together to make a final blind cover measuring 7 feet tall by 6 feet wide. The frame described above is designed to accommodate a blind cover with these dimensions. Wool sacks are made of material similar to burlap sacks but are denser in their construction. Each sack costs about \$1.50 and can be obtained through companies that process or market wool. One such company is Midwest Wool Marketing Cooperative, 405 E. 14th Avenue in North Kansas City, Missouri. Being rectangular, the blind cover will fold flat for storage. However, when it is placed over the blind two puckers will be produced on opposite sides. This excess material can be either tied down by sewing a strap onto each pucker and on the sides of the blind cover, or the puckers can be held down with large safety pins fastened onto the frame. Straps used to tie the sides of the entryway together should be placed on the inside and recessed several inches to permit overlapping the sides upon closure.

The inside is roomy enough for two people (diameter = 4 feet; surface area = 13.5 square feet) and readily lends itself to modification for particular needs. The frame can easily be formed into an oblong shape if needed. The frame can also serve as a place for hanging supplies, or one can suspend shelves from the frame. The structure is not heavy and can be easily moved while remaining inside. The wind tends to flow smoothly around the round blind without forming a pocket to catch the wind (a common annoyance with square blinds) and create a continual flapping that might affect the behavior of nearby birds. Because the blind is round, one can pull the sides of the entrance snug against the frame and tie the sides together tightly enough so that no part of the blind will flap even in high winds. Winds of 35 mph have not penetrated blinds made of wool sacks, and this material will hold three inches of melted snow on top without leaking. I do not use a roof support other than the fencing, but additional support may be needed when rain is expected. I have used my blinds mainly in the winter with a heater. The use of this frame permitted me to place the heater adjacent to the blind cover without fear of a fire.

The major disadvantage of this blind is in transportation of the fencing which is rather bulky, even when rolled as tightly as possible. However, the advantages, including cost (less than \$10.00), make use of this blind a joy compared to others I have tried.—Jerome D. Robins, Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Received 26 April 1972, accepted 18 June 1972.

**An adult Mockingbird with a pale white iris.**—On 12 October 1969 at my station in Pennington, N. J. I banded (702-89327) a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) that had a pale iris and processed it as: HY-U, fat class 0 (0-3, scale) 52.1g. When recaptured on 16 April 1972, this Mockingbird's iris was a pale, muddy white with no indication of the bright yellow color which is characteristic of an adult Mockingbird.

Charles H. Blake (*EBBA News*, 25: 171, 1962) describes the sequence of Mockingbird eye color change: "after independence: gray, brown, dull yellow. The last color is achieved about the time post-juvenile molt begins and some individuals retain it for at least a year. Some adults of unknown age have the iris more orange." Merrill Wood (*A Bird-Banders Guide to Determination of Age and Sex of Selected Species*, Univ. Park, Pa., 1969, 75) suggests that one should age Mockingbirds by skulling in the summer and into September, and gives a key to aging based on eye color as: "Iris gray: from hatching—Dec. HY, Jan-Apr. SY; Iris yellow (occasionally orange): Jan-Sept. AHY, Oct-Dec. age U." Robert H. Horwich (*Bird-Banding*, 37:263, 1966) describes the sequence of eye color change in young Mockingbirds of known age as: "After about five months of age the eyes change from a dark gray to a light grayish-green. At about ten months of age there is a gradual color change to pale yellow. By 16 months it appears light orange or dull yellow. By 18 months it still had not reached the bright yellow-orange or yellow . . . which I have seen in adults."

Because I have no notation of the skull condition of this Mockingbird at the time of banding in 1969, the age designation of HY at that time now appears questionable, *i.e.* it might have been an adult. That it had the pale white iris in at least its fourth year of life suggests that iris color alone may not be a reliable age indication for the Mockingbird.—Kenneth Wade Prescott, 15 Timberlane Drive, Pennington, New Jersey 08534. Received 30 May 1972, accepted 28 June 1972.

**Cattle Egret recoveries from south Georgia nesting colonies.**—During the spring and summer of 1967, C. William Dopson and I undertook to locate by aerial search and census on foot all heron rookeries within a fifty-mile radius of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, Georgia (*Oriole*, **32**: 39-45, 1967). Fitzgerald is located in the upper Coastal Plain of south Georgia, approximately 120 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and 75 miles north of the Georgia-Florida state line. I have continued the aerial search for breeding colonies of the waders and Aningas (*Anhinga anhinga*) through the 1972 breeding season and have subsequently located eight occupied sites. These have varied in size from 40 nests in the smallest to over 3,000 nests in the largest.

In 1968, Sqdr. Leader Philip G. Murton, RAF, and I entered four of the colonies on 14 occasions, primarily to band nestlings (*Oriole*, **34**: 1-11, 1969). In 1968, we banded 1,441 Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*), 314 Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*), 33 Aningas, 13 Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*), and 9 Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*). Banding of nestlings of these species was carried out at Rebecca (Turner County), Abbeville (Dodge County), Bear Creek (Coffee County), and Spring Hill (Wheeler County), Georgia. Numbered aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service bands were used, and no color-banding was attempted.

Table 1 lists the numbers of Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons banded and Table 2 contains recovery data received to the present time (summer, 1972). No recoveries have been received for the other species banded.

TABLE 1. Nestlings banded in 1968.

Colony location	Date	Cattle Egret	Little Blue Heron
Abbeville	27 May	1	94
Spring Hill	8 June	40	63
Abbeville	15 June	37	48
Spring Hill	22 June	217	43
Rebecca	30 June	123	22
Abbeville	4 July	169	9
Spring Hill	5 July	216	15
Rebecca	6 July	176	13
Spring Hill	20 July	105	5
Rebecca	21 July	187	2
Rebecca	4 August	120	0
Bear Creek	11 August	50	0
Totals		1441	314

Numbers of each of the two species considered in the tables along with dates of banding are good indices of the progression of the breeding cycle. The peak of the nesting season in this area of south Georgia is mid-May for the Little Blue Heron, whereas for the Cattle Egret it is in mid-June and early July. We have noted many Cattle Egret nests with eggs in early August when Little Blue Herons have fledged their young.