

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

The article depicting the construction of a tube for holding birds for examination of flight feathers (D.C. Steel, *Bird-Banding*, 46: 74-75, 1975) was very concise and clear in describing a simple and functional device.

There is one point, however, that might be clarified for persons in this country, namely the thickness of the steel used. Steel mills in the United States do not roll metal to metric dimensions. It is made here in decimal thicknesses. The British standard wire gauge 0.82 mm mentioned would fall between our 22 gauge, .0336" and 23 gauge, .0306", the standard here for Hot Dipped galvanized steel. This is a highly corrosion resistant steel commonly seen as rain gutters and heating ducts. Many hardware stores sell this metal in small sheets two to three feet square.

Where the author describes rolling the tube section in one direction or the opposite to expose either the left or right wing suggests that perhaps the tubes should be made in pairs so that both wings can be examined.

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REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

COLOR-MARKED COWBIRDS

Over 7,100 Brown-headed Cowbirds were banded and color-marked in westcentral Kansas during 1974 as an aid in studying their movements and hopefully to determine their place of origin. Birds were marked with red, yellow, or green plastic leg streamers. Fall and winter observations revealed 27 individuals from 10 locations in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico. However, data from spring and summer movements are needed. Observers should report location and date of sighting, sex of bird, and color of leg streamer to RICHARD A. HILL, *Department of Biology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas 67601.*

OILED BIRDS

This is a request for information regarding oiled birds. I have been working with the problems of oiled wildlife for several years and am currently engaged in a project entitled "Analysis of Bird Banding Returns as an Indicator of Survival Rates of Oiled Birds Released to the Wild." The following information would be very helpful to me:

data on the number of banded birds that were the victims of tar, oil, or any petroleum product; the number of band returns from these oiled birds and any information on the circumstances of how the band was recovered.

Please send the information as soon as possible to PHILIP B. STANTON, *Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, 84 Grove Street, Upton, Mass. 01568.*

NOTES AND NEWS

Spring Meeting. The Spring Meeting of NEBBA was held at Petersham, Mass., 17-19 May 1975. At the Council Meeting on 17 May, 11 Councilors and Officers were present. Attention was given to financial matters, mist nets, storage of back issues of *Bird-Banding*, a possible new cover for the journal, Ten-year Indexes, and the newly established Research Fund.

Annual Meeting. Plans are underway to hold the next Annual (Autumn) Meeting of NEBBA at Drumlin Farm, Lincoln, Mass. about 25 October 1975. The membership will be apprised of specifics of the meeting in a separate announcement at a later time.