

Lightweight, compact, low cost, and ease of use are all positive aspects of this pole design; however, one of the most useful characteristic is the telescoping mechanism. With fixed length poles and even stackable poles, the researcher pulls the net down to reach birds trapped in the top trammels of the net. Often this results in undue stress that eventually tears or damages the net in some way. Past answers to this problem have included attaching ropes to the top shelf or carrying a long pole with a hook to pull the net down. Once finished the net had to be returned to its functioning position using a long pole or stick. This is not the easiest way to handle a net. With the telescoping action, the pole can be lowered along with the net

to reach the upper shelf. The pole then can be raised again carrying the net back to its original height.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Ben Cash, Rebecca L. Holberton, Meredith Hunter, and Morgan Wilson who have, over the years, used this pole design and commented on modifications. All research utilizing these poles was conducted under U.S. Fish and Wildlife banding (Permit 22616-A or 23254) and state and federal collecting (MB819656-4) permits issued to Rebecca L. Holberton with Christopher G. Sims as a sub-permittee.

News, Notes, Comments

PORTABLE STAND FOR HANGING BIRD BAGS

INTRODUCTION

When banding birds, care needs to be given that they are being handled promptly and efficiently. Often, at portable banding stations birds are hung in nearby trees or shrubs while waiting to be processed. This necessitates the bander to get up, go retrieve the next bag, and then return to their table for processing. Time spent retrieving the next bag is wasted time. We developed a bird bag holding stand which speeds the processing time, allowing a bander to spend time on the bird itself.

The following describes a portable stand for hanging bird bags close to the banders while processing. Although originally developed to hang bags with hummingbirds, we have used the portable stand extensively for landbird banding operations as well without problems. One caution about using the stand for landbirds: bagged larger birds, such as towhees, thrashers, woodpeckers, and orioles, should be hung close to the center pole to avoid a balancing problem.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The stand (see Fig. 1) is made of 3/4" schedule 40 PVC. All small parts are glued so the finished stand

consists of three separate pieces, which are assembled easily at the start of a banding session. At the end of the banding session, the stand is disassembled into three separate pieces, which are then bound together with a bungee cord for transport and storage. The center pole can be cut to any reasonable height for use. Our center poles are 30", which works well with our table heights.

Materials needed are:

1 - 10 ft 3/4" schedule 40 PVC cut into the following pieces:

1 - 32" to 36" (your preference)
4 - 12" and 4 - 6"

In addition, you need the following items:

4 - 3/4" Tees and 4 - 3/4" Caps
1 small can clear PVC cement
16 - 3/4" rubberized cup hooks

Either a PVC cutter or hack saw is needed for cutting the PVC. To start the installation of cuphooks, a drill with a slightly smaller drill bit than the dimension of the cuphook screws makes the installation easier. Assemble all the PVC pieces and glue them before drilling the cuphook holes, as glue sets very fast.

After pieces are cut, glue two 12" pieces to top of one T, creating a straight line. Set aside to dry. Glue the remaining two 12" pieces to top of a second T, again creating a straight line. Set aside to dry. Glue one cap to each 6" piece. Glue two 6" pieces to

the top of one T, creating a straight line. Do the same thing to the remaining pieces. Set aside to dry. I let them dry overnight.

Assemble the stand by sliding unglued "T" portion of piece created by 6" pieces on ends of pieces made of 12" pieces. This is the "foot." Put one end of the 36" piece into "T" in middle of "foot." The other piece made with 12" pieces is the "top." Slide "top" on other end of 36" piece. Fig. 1 will clarify written instructions.

Measure and mark where cuphooks will be put on both sides of "top". I made mine 2" apart to have room for bags to have air. Use a drill with a smaller drill bit than the cup hook size to make putting the cup hooks in the top bar easier. Pre-drill cuphook holes. Screw cuphooks in to complete the stand.

For storage, take the stand apart in three pieces, the center pole, the top part, and the foot part. Use a bungee cord long enough to wrap around the middle two to three times to hold the pieces together.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Duane and Barbara Robinson produced the drawing of the stand. Ruth Yoder, Rita Colwell, and Joe Messin made comments on the draft. Any errors are mine.

Barbara A. Carlson
P. O. Box 55419
Riverside, CA 92517
bacrcy@earthlink.net

Fig. 1. Portable stand for hanging Bird Bags

MATERIAL: 1 - 10'-0" PIECE OF 3/4" SCHEDULE 40 PVC PIPE
16 - WHITE COATED METAL CUP HOOKS

- (A) 4 - 3/4" CAPS
- (B) 4 - 3/4" TEES
- (C) 4 - 6" PIECES PVC
- (D) 4 - 12" PIECES PVC
- (E) 1 - 32" TO 36" PIECE PVC
- (F) 16 - WHITE COATED METAL CUP HOOKS

