

HINTS FOR BEGINNER
BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

You can make some excellent pictures, in color or black and white, with an inexpensive 35 mm or other small camera equipped with portra lenses (also inexpensive) and a focal frame you can make yourself.

(Your camera store will advise you well on these items.) And here are a few good rules to remember:

1. Use the smallest practicable diaphragm opening.
2. Use a tripod. . .or even a solid base such as a table.
3. Check your background.
4. Keep your picture simple.
5. Take at least two pictures of each bird subject.

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NEWS

IN

BRIEF

"93 Purple Grackles (all at once) in one house trap," writes Elise Dickerson. "One had a decurved yellow bill $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long (lower mandible - upper mandible 2 inches)" ★ ★ ★ The Index to articles in Bird-Banding will be ready in 1958 -- and The Auk's Index is to be issued in the spring of 1958.

Any volunteers to do an Index of EBBA NEWS for the last 10 years? ★ ★ ★ Ben Burt of Syracuse, N.Y., writes "Recoveries of hawks and owls (banded by him - Ed.) are high percentage wise, but there is little of significance as yet. Have had two kestrel recoveries. Both were in the first winter and both in South Carolina ★ ★ ★ Some records of highflying birds are: a flock of geese at 29,000 feet; the conquerors of Mount Everest saw an unidentified bird at 27,000 feet; a giant vulture at 24,500 feet; curlews and godwits at 20,000 feet; Andean condor at 19,500 feet. Will satellite cameras give us new records? ★ ★ ★ Dorothy Bordner, answering Mrs. Smith's question about goldfinches in EBBA NEWS 20:4, notes that though they are seed eaters they are not ground feeders. She has caught a few in ground traps with water drip (and so have I - Ed.) and has also taken them with "seeds in trip-steps on top of the large traps and in top opening traps ★ ★ ★ Eva Townsend of Pompton Plains, N.J. caught and banded a Black-billed Magpie (in a 12x12x12 trip step trap loaned by your editor) -- then found out it was a caged bird that had escaped ★ ★ ★ Mrs. Lawrence B. Rowland of Middleboro, Mass., writes that within 36 hours of the time she read (in EBBA NEWS) John Dennis' note about using 1B bands on Dickcissels, she had occasion to apply the information. ★ ★ ★ Bette J. Johnston of Mount Clemens, Michigan writes in The Wilson Bulletin (69: No. 3: 278) of how she trapped cowbirds by putting an old towhee nest, containing three English sparrow eggs, into one cell of a two compartment trap. Females entered the nest section and were trapped - their cries brought males into the other section ★ ★ ★ Bennett K. Matlack of Bridgeton, N.J., writes that as of November 26 he has banded 10,004 birds of 106 species this year. Sounds like some sort of record for a cooperator, doesn't it?

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