

and time, energy, and enough of that important "where-with-all" to pay expenses, can band as many different Passerines as he wants to write schedules for.

Noteworthy too is the development of an entirely new banding technique which someone has already christened "Gypsy-bird-banding". Without missing a minute's sleep, a meal, or a shave, a bander from Boston, New York, or Philadelphia can set up substations in southern New Jersey one day, and in Virginia the next. Like as not he will spend the weekend in Florida banding Burrowing Owls. Some banders have actually traveled farther and faster than the migrants they are banding, and at least one bander is planning to follow a favorite species over its whole migration route.

What about the future of Bird Banding? Will spiralling totals finally be too much for the Patuxent filing cabinets? Will enthusiastic and energetic banders voluntarily specialize to ease the chore of schedule-writing? Or will some nuclear physicist throw a monkey-wrench into banding by developing specific radio-active tracer substances that will supplement bands or replace them altogether. May the day never dawn when Geiger Counters will replace banding pliers.

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#### USING THE BINOCULAR AS A MAGNIFIER

By The Reicherts

All of you, when you work at your banding traps, undoubtedly keep your binoculars handy. And perhaps you sometimes wish you could convert the glasses into a magnifier for close examination of a bird band. You can easily do this by looking through one side of the binocular the reverse way, with the bird band about 1 - 1½ inches from the eye lens of the binocular. But -- to an amazing extent -- the magnification you obtain depends primarily ON YOUR EYES! Whether a 6x or an 8x makes little difference; what matters is your ability to focus on close objects ... in short, on your "reading distance". The following figures (based on a 6x) are indeed astonishing:

If your reading distance is 10 inches, you see the band magnified 6 times. But if you hold print 20 inches away to see it clearly, the magnification is 3; if 30 inches, the magnification is only 2! However, if your reading distance is much over 10 inches, you doubtless use reading glasses, or wear bi-focals. If so, when you use your binocular as a magnifier, look through your reading glasses or the lower (reading) part of your bi-focals. You will obtain higher magnification -- probably the full 6 power.

Also, the further out you screw the bridge of the binocular, the greater the magnification. Few glasses can be screwed out as far as is

desirable. So we, with the facilities of our Shop, modify 6 of our models so you can screw out the bridge much farther than when the binocular left the factory. When you use such a glass as a magnifier you obtain the maximum magnification.

Should you wish to have your hands free to handle the bird band while you use the binocular as a magnifier, rig up some sort of a stand to support the binocular. We can furnish a clamp that fastens on the center post of the binocular and need not be removed when you put the glasses in the leather case. The other end is threaded to fit on any standard tripod, or on a screw that you can readily obtain and install in a stand of your own devising.

If you are a bird watcher, as well as a bander, binoculars with an extended focusing range will fill a long felt need. How close can you see birds clearly through yours? 25 feet? 20 feet, perhaps? With these glasses of ours you can see down to 9 to 12 feet -- even if your eyes have very little reading accomodation! So great is the demand among birders for this close-up feature that we do the work at no extra charge -- as one of our contributions to the cause of better birding.

If by any chance you are doing experimental work, and want to see much closer, say down to 2 to 4 feet, we can solve this problem also -- we've done it for scientists on special assignments. So, if you have any binocular problem, contact us; we'll do our best to solve it.

*The Reicherts*

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS:** Robert J. Reichert and Elsa Reichert have specialized in binoculars for bird study for over 30 years. At one time Mr. Reichert computed a binocular of his own design. Every binocular model ever to reach this country has at some time or other passed through their hands. Binocular consultants since 1923, they operate as the Mirakel Optical Company, 14 West First St., Mount Vernon, N.Y.

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COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING !

The Annual Meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association will be held at Ramsey, New Jersey, on April 12 and 13, 1958.

Ramsey, as shown on the map on the following page, is strategically located for those coming from the south via the Garden State Parkway, from the north via the New York Thruway and from Long Island and Connecticut via the Thruway or the New York City Parkways and the George Washington Bridge across the Hudson River.