

NOTES ON THE NOVICE NETTING SESSION: EBBA MEETING 1963

By Timothy S. Sterrett

The Novice Netting Session was designed to show the essentials of catching birds with mist nets to both new banders and new netters. Margaret Mendinhall began the session by showing and explaining gadgets and ideas which, in her banding experience, have been helpful. She pointed out that strips cut from inner tubes and fitted with snaps make an easy, adjustable means for fastening nets to poles.

James Richardson and Timothy Sterrett then explained some elementary techniques of netting to the group. We discussed the advantages of several types of netting locations such as nets near or over water and nets across natural flyways. Drawing from our experience, we gave our views on the best types of nets (black nets not over forty-five feet in length, glued to trammels every three or four feet with Duco Cement) and poles (steel electrical conduit). We then explained that netting could be done in any weather in which the bander could comfortably work, as long as he kept the birds from being cooked or frozen while they were in the net.

To finish the hour, we demonstrated a method for putting up and taking down a net quickly and easily. Thanks to a befuddled sparrow, there was an opportunity for new banders and netters to try their hands at removing a bird from a net and to see that, with the correct approach, most birds can be removed quickly and easily and all birds can be removed without cutting the net.

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VISITING IN MONTREAL

On a brief trip to see our newly married daughter Nancy and her husband in Montreal, Canada the Editor and Mrs. Frazier visited with Leslie Gray and his charming wife at their home close by a lake in Pointe Claire, a Montreal suburb. Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Mellish, also banders and EBBA members who live only a few doors away, were there too and you can imagine that there was much friendly talk about banding activities. Both Gray and Mellish band Evening Grosbeaks in quantity -- and in the gull colonies nearby. Leslie Gray is also involved in the extraordinary operation at Point Pelee (they run 4 Heligoland traps there, for instance.) We shall hope to have articles from both of these most hospitable Pointe Claire EBBA members in forthcoming issues.