

into banding traps. And significantly a much larger proportion of the birds taken during these later snowfalls were unbanded as contrasted with the take preceding a snowfall. This suggests that either the bird bander falls far short of taking all the common banding station visitors in his region or else that with severe weather birds move about much more and that the unbanded birds which show up at such times may well be outsiders.

It might be mentioned that at the feeding station birds seem to respond much more readily than at the banding station to weather changes. During five days in February, 1953 a feeding station near Leesburg was kept under observation by the writer from 9:30 A.M. until 10:30 A.M. The number of visits made by each species was recorded. The best attendance was on a bright sunny day after an unusually cold night. The poorest attendance was on a day with bright sunshine and a strong northwesterly wind. Attendance was average during a rain storm and on a partly cloudy day with no wind. The number of visits recorded during the observation periods varied from 103 to 213.

It would be interesting to compare over a period of time attendance at a feeding station with daily take at a nearby banding station. The experimenter would have to take into account the factor of diminishing return at banding traps which comes with continued operation. But if traps are in operation only a part of the day or at less frequent intervals (and when not in operation birds have free access to the bait) then the feeding station and banding trap are somewhat on a par. But for most birds, it is reasonable to assume, that the banding trap appears as an obstacle and only gradually does the bird become conditioned to entering it freely. Some individuals, as banders well know, become conditioned to such a degree that they become habitual trap attendants. Under the influence of conditioning, it seems likely, that a large proportion of banding station visitors become so addicted to trap feeding that they continue to come and go regardless of weather conditions. The same is doubtless true of the feeding station, but probably to a lesser degree. Almost any passing bird is apt to drop in at a feeding station. Thus with birds coming and going more freely feeding station attendance would be a more reliable index than that of the banding station as to how weather conditions influence the feeding activities of birds.

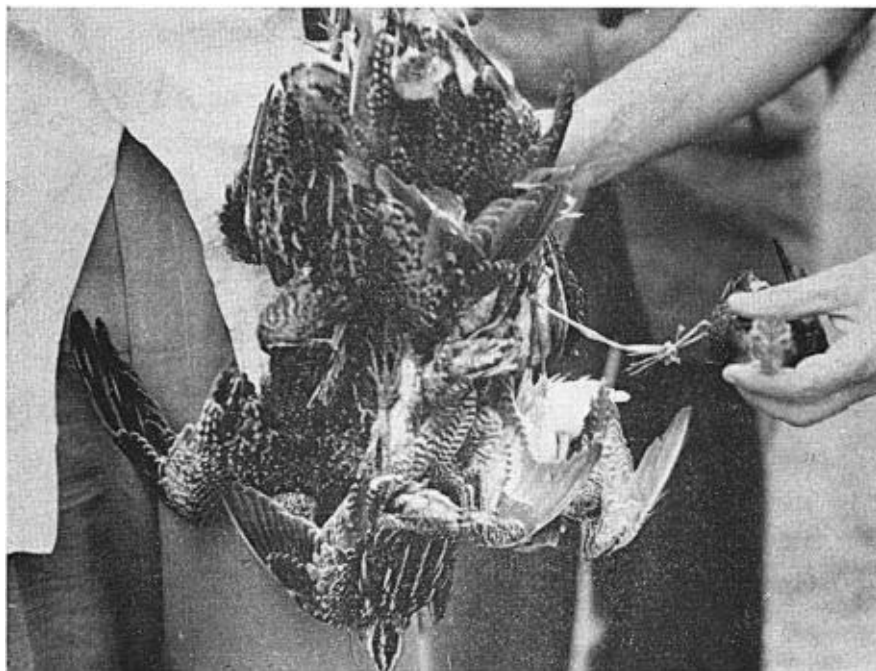
17 Liberty St., Nantucket, Mass.

BIRD-NETTING AS A TECHNIQUE FOR BANDING SHORE-BIRDS

BY ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY

In November 1953, while at Manila as a delegate of the United States to the Eighth Pacific Science Congress, I observed the results of netting by a method that might serve in banding procedure.

The Philippine bird-catchers go at night to the borders of the rice fields and capture birds by using electric torches and hand-nets. The latter, which I did not see, are said to be of two kinds, one a long-



handled net of "butterfly" type, but larger, and the other a casting net with weighted edges, such as is used for fishing in shallow water. Most of the victims are migratory waders from the northern hemisphere, but the catch includes also various resident species.

The birds spend the night in groups around such wet places as rice fields and they become so somnolent that they are not easily alarmed. The fowlers find their prey by means of the flashlights, which do not disturb the birds. They can approach quietly and bring down the nets over an entire huddle. The victims are taken to Manila in basket cages such as that shown in the accompanying photograph. They are kept alive in order to prevent putrefaction, which takes place rapidly in most dead Limicolae. Early in the morning they are strung on raffia by the legs and peddled to motorists along Dewey Boulevard. Usually the last example is sold by the middle of the forenoon, and the motoring populace seems to be well informed regarding the relative delicacy of the several species for the table.

Other visiting ornithologists and I talked with three of the bird-catchers, whose nightly bag at that season averaged fifty or more apiece. The list I made of the species has been checked and extended by Dr. D. L. Serventy, of Australia, and Dr. R. A. Falla, of New Zealand, both of whom purchased a variety of specimens and prepared them as study skins. The tally of 16 species follows. Since I made no exact count, the list indicates no more than approximate ratios.

<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>		1
<i>Anas crecca</i>		1
<i>Amaurornis olivacea</i>		1
<i>Rallus philippensis</i>		1
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1 adult, several young	
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	120 on three strings	
<i>Tringa ocropus</i>	Several	
<i>Erolia subminuta</i>	Several dozen	
<i>Erolia minutilla</i>	Several	
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Several	
<i>Gallinago megala</i>	25 or more	
<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Several	
<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Several	
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Numerous	
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus dealbatus</i>	Numerous	
<i>Charadrius dominicus fulvus</i>	A few	

Relatively few snipe and plover have been banded in the United States, at least when compared with ducks, gulls, etc. It seems likely that the Philippine method of nocturnal capture might work quite as well for us on salt-meadows and other marshy areas during the southward migration of latter summer.

American Museum of Natural History, New York

GENERAL NOTES

The Nesting of the Common Tern at Montezuma.—A new nesting locality for the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) was reported recently by Sherwood (1954. *Wilson Bull.*, 66(2): 145). Mention was made of a nest found at the Montezuma Marsh in 1953. To supplement this reporting the following observations are offered.