

MIST NETS EXEMPT FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES

The North American Council of Bird Banding Associations is pleased to announce that the President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, signed a bill on October 10th, 1962, which provides for the exemption of fowling (mist, in our case) nets from duty.

The original fowling net bill passed in 1930 provided that the law would become effective the day following the passage of the act.

Representative William B. Widnall (7th Dist. R.) of Saddle River, New Jersey introduced our bill, RN 6682, on April 26, 1961.

By April 9, 1962 it reached the Senate and was reported out of committee with amendments on June 21, 1962. After passage it then went back to a joint committee of the two houses for reconsideration. It finally passed the last week in September and was sent to the President for his signature.

I wish to express my gratitude to Elting Arnold, Alexander Bergstrom, Dr. William Drury, Rep. William B. Widnall and all who wrote letters urging the passage of the bill. Without their cooperation this venture would never have been a success.

Eleanor E. Dater
Chairman, NACOBBA

NOTES AND NEWS

The subscription rate for *Bird-Banding* (\$5.00 a year, U. S. currency) is now uniform for all subscribers. The impact of 1962 increases in printing costs, after other increases in costs in recent years, left us with no choice but to cut the average length of issues or increase our income. We regret that this decision was necessary. (Note: this and the previous two issues were intentionally made a little shorter than average, to help in overcome the unfortunate printing delays).

NEBBA has reduced its prices on the five types of mist net stocked, as of October, 1962, to reflect the end of U. S. customs duties on them (see Mrs. Dater's announcement, in the preceding section). In order to make the change immediately, the Association absorbed the cost of duty on nets which had passed customs before the end of duties, but which had not been sold before the new price list was made up. The list does not reduce prices to as low a figure as we had hoped earlier, inasmuch as prices in Japan rose in 1962; eliminating duties does however more than offset the effect of the Japanese increase, so that final prices are lower than at any time in the past five years. Copies of the list may be obtained from Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 17, Conn.

Starting about March, 1963, NEBBA expects to stock a sixth type of mist net (type F), similar to type A (12 meters long, 4 shelves, black) but with mesh about 1" (stretched) instead of 1½". It will be of special value for the smallest birds, such as kinglets or chickadees, but also useful for warblers. Experiments carried out during 1962 by Dr. William H. Drury, Jr. indicated that birds of these sizes will be easier to remove from the net than from a standard net, as the smaller size mesh, together with the same 70-denier yarn used on type A nets, will cut into the bird's plumage less. This weight of yarn is slightly more visible than lighter yarns (50-denier or even less) used by some other Japanese manufacturers, but we feel it has definite advantages in addition to somewhat greater durability. The price for type F nets will be about \$1 higher than type A nets; as the initial supply is moderate, any netters who particularly want some for spring use should order now.

In Connecticut, mammalogists at the University of Connecticut are interested in examining owl pellets for small mammal remains, as part of an intensive project (New England Small Mammal Study Group). They would welcome either owl pellets or information on the location of owl roosts. Address: Dr. Ralph M. Wetzel, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, The University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn.