



The INSTITUTE for BIRD POPULATIONS

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT FOR OPERATING A MAPS STATION

Net sites:

Tools to clear net lanes and to maintain them (specific tools vary by site but could include: machete and file, axe (can double as hammer for pounding in rebar), loppers, shears, clippers, grass sweeper, gas-powered weedwhacker, saw, chainsaw, etc.)

Poles - 2 per net (1/2" EMT), 10'-lengths cut into two 5'-lengths connected with a 1/2" to 1/2" set screw type connector – **or** – one 5'-length 1/2" EMT with ball of duct tape approximately 6" from end to insert into one 5'-length 3/4" EMT

Screwdriver, to tighten connector screws

Rebar, 3/8", for securing net poles into ground, 2' or 3'-lengths, depending on soils, 1 for each pole

Hammer, for pounding rebar into ground

Washers 1/2", to fit around rebar at ground level, to prevent poles from sliding into sandy or muddy ground

Rope, for anchoring the poles to the stakes

Stakes, for staking down the pole-ties (2' rebar, tent stakes, huge nails, etc.)

Flagging to mark net trails, net sites, rebar location (over the winter), banding station, and station boundaries (avoid red—it fades)

Vegetation tags, permanent, to mark net sites

Net operation:

Nets (1-2 extra in case of damage)

Net repair kit (including curved needles, scissors, thin nylon thread for netting, thick nylon thread for trammel lines)

Bird bags, small and large (cotton soil bags from Forestry Suppliers are cheap and convenient; remember to wash them regularly)

Clothes pins, for numbering bird bags containing birds identifying the net the bird came from

Seam ripper, scissors, or small crochet hook to assist with difficult bird extractions

Carabiners, to transport bird bags by suspending from carabineer clipped to a rope slung around neck during net run

Banding Station:

Table and chairs and/or tarp, to keep equipment from getting lost and to protect equipment from rain and moisture on the ground

Tackle box or other container to transport banding equipment

Film canisters with holes in caps to dispense bands

Banding pliers, for all sizes used at banding station

Leg Gauge

Wing ruler, 15cm

Plastic ruler, to measure tails, primary projection, etc.

Calipers

Banding Station (cont.)

Scales – preferably electronic that can measure to the nearest 10th of a gram and some way of holding the bird for weighing (bird bags, stocking material, manila cones, plastic cones, film canisters, orange juice cans [for use with cones and electronic balances])

ID Guides; Peter Pyle's ID Guide to North American Birds is required - slatecreekpress.com/ to order Optivisor or other magnifier (DA-5=2.5x focal length of 8"; price about \$40)

Permits

End nipper pliers (hobby size), band opening pliers, and/or pocket knife - all of these can be very helpful if it is necessary to remove a band from a bird

Black pens and permanent markers

White-out tape

Compass or GPS unit for making map

Thermometer to check weather conditions at the station for banding

"Hospital Box"--shoe box or small cooler adapted to local conditions with cloth, icepack, chemical heater in which stressed birds (overheated, chilled, stressed birds) can be held briefly to assist in recovery

Eye-dropper with water may be helpful.

Water container, and cup to hold for water to assist with skulling

Clipboards (legal size for MAPS banding sheets) with banding code sheet clear-taped to one side

Full set of data sheets

Binders to hold fresh and used data sheets

Hand warmers – VERY important for people with tendencies towards cold hands

Masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes

Field chairs, water bottles, lunch containers, yummy snacks, etc

Some sources we use:

Avinet: avinet.com

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO): app.bto.org/btos/ringingSales.htmlx

Forestry Suppliers: forestry-suppliers.com

Amazon.com