

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 weed-whacker, saw, chainsaw, etc.)

Poles (1/2" EMT), 10'-lengths cut into two 5'-lengths connected with a 1/2" to 1/2" set screw type connector; 2 per net screwdriver to tighten connector screws

Rebar, 3/8", for securing net poles into ground, 3' or 4'-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

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 or scissors 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:

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 (the WING15GRC ruler offered by Avinet is excellent: not left or right-specific with tail ruler on backside)

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

Calipers

Scales (spring or electronic) along with 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 - go to www.prbo.org to order

Permits

Needlenose pliers; Endclip pliers; Jackknife-- 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

Compass or GPS unit for making map

Thermometer to check weather conditions at the station for banding safety

Optivisor and detachable loupe

Banding Station (cont.)

“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, tiny, 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.

Field chairs, water bottles, lunch containers, hand warmers for personal comfort

Some sources we use:

Avinet: 1-888-284-6387

AFO Banding Supplies: Tel 508-224-6521; email afoband@manomet.org. (They sell cheap mist nets for banding permit holders)

BTO: ringingsales@bto.org (British organization)

Forestry Suppliers:

Catalog request: 1-800-360-7788

Sales: 1-800-647-5368