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Net Poles and Connectors

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A simple, effective water drip

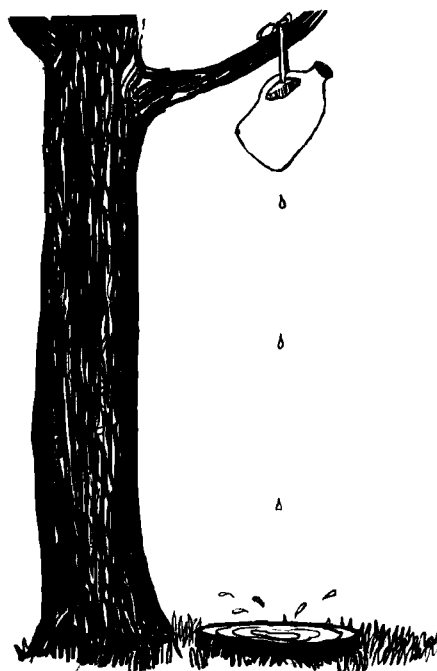
Edith Andrews

Land birds are attracted by moving water and can be enticed into a net lane by setting up a water drip. It can be placed at a point about midway down the net lane. Birds will come to drink and bathe.

A clean, gallon-size plastic bleach bottle can be used for this purpose. Almost any plastic jug will work, but a bleach bottle is more substantial than most. A pinhole through the bottom, opposite the handle, is all that is needed.

Fill the jug with clear water and hang it from a convenient limb. The amount of water dripping from the jug can be regulated by turning the cap to adjust the internal pressure. The ideal drip rate is one drop per second. If the pinhole is just the right size and the cap a good tight fit (metal caps hold the pressure best), one gallon of water will last up to eight hours. ♦

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Net poles and connectors

Robert Pantle

Materials

For two poles:

- (2) 10' thin-walled, $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter conduit poles
- (2) 4" plastic pipe connectors, $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter
- (1) 3', $\frac{7}{16}$ " rod stock (enough for 9 connectors)

Construction Details:

Hacksaw the (2) 10' pieces of conduit in half — (4) 5' lengths). Use a small metal file to dress sawed edges, inside and outside. Cut (2) 4" lengths from the rod stock and file those edges round. Do NOT omit the filing steps, as they are important for a good fit.

Take (1) 4" piece of rod and insert it into (1) 4" plastic pipe connector. Hint: Place the 4" connector in warm or boiling water for about 2 minutes, making it easier for the rod to fit inside. The rod will have to be tapped with a hammer to fit inside snugly. Now, sand or file

one half of the plastic pipe connector so it will fit into one end of a 5' piece of conduit (this makes the bottom half of the net pole). Do not over-sand as this should be a very tight fit. The connector will have to be tapped into the conduit with a mallet or hammer. This is a permanent fit.

The top section of the net pole should be custom-fit by sanding the half of the connector which extends from the bottom half of the net pole. The top net pole (the other 5' piece of conduit) should slide on and off easily. This is not a permanent fit.

These net poles and connectors are very servicable and have the advantage of a smooth surface so the mist nets do not gather or catch. The only maintenance required is a possible light sanding of the connector to keep the fit loose for the top half of the net pole. ♦

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