

Ketterson / Nolan Research Group Collection

This document is part of a collection that serves two purposes. First it is a public archive for data and documents resulting from evolutionary, ecological, and behavioral research conducted by the Ketterson-Nolan research group. The focus of the research is an abundant North American songbird, the dark-eyed junco, *Junco hyemalis*, and the primary sources of support have been the National Science Foundation and Indiana University. The research was conducted in collaboration with numerous colleagues and students, and the objective of this site is to preserve not only the published products of the research, but also to document the organization and people that led to the published findings. Second it is a repository for the works of Val Nolan Jr., who studied songbirds in addition to the junco: in particular the prairie warbler, *Dendroica discolor*. This site was originally compiled and organized by Eric Snajdr, Nicole Gerlach, and Ellen Ketterson.

Context Statement

This document was generated as part of a long-term biological research project on a songbird, the dark-eyed junco, conducted by the Ketterson/Nolan research group at Indiana University. For more information, please see IUScholarWorks (<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/7911>).

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SETTING NETS ACCORDING TO VAL NOLAN

May 8, 2003

No substantive changes, May 18, 2008

Please remember the following when setting nets:

1. Nets stretch/contract according to their newness, the weather, etc.; therefore they have to be reset frequently to keep them taut (shelves un-sagging), effective, off the ground, etc. So reset them as necessary, whenever you use them and whenever you see them touching the ground even if you are not using them. Nets that aren't taut tend to open at the end, which catches and kills birds. Apart from this effect on the birds and the project, it gives us all kinds of problems with the authorities (letters to Butch, the President of UVA, etc.).
2. Assuming you are working with adequately long net ties and ropes, put the net up with the stakes about 3-31/2' apart and about 3-31/2' from the pole, so that from above you have an *equilateral* triangle formed by the pole and the two segments of the rope lead to the stakes. If you find you have too short a set of ties/ropes, it's best (when possible) to exchange for another set. The results of not using this method are –
 - a. stakes are too close together, poles lean or fall over sideways,
 - b. stakes too far apart – poles lean toward each other and net sags or collapses, either a) or b) makes resetting a hell of a problem
 - c. ties wrapped around pole too near the ground – the whole set up is unstable, poles lean or fall, and resetting is almost impossible.

Years ago someone introduce what I consider a virus of tying so to use as little of the rope as possible (stakes too near pole, rope tied too low). This looks efficient and nice but it plays hell with netting until the whole setup is redone from scratch.