

end of September, 1948, on the hills near Kyle Strome, Sutherland, Scotland (58°20'N: 5°00'W). According to the report that came to the Fish and Wildlife Service from Miss E. P. Leach of the British Museum (Natural History), all that remained of the bird when the band was recovered was a "much mutilated foot . . . after it had apparently been eaten by some bird of prey." No. 47-305032 was banded on July 5, 1947, as a non-flying juvenal and was found on November 10, 1948, at Kingfisher Creek, Sedgefield, near Wilderness, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. The report on this bird came from J. Vincent of the South African Ornithological Society.

During the summers of 1947 and 1948, 2900 Arctic Terns were banded, most of them as juvenals, at Machias Seal Island. Only the above two significant recoveries have been obtained so far from those birds, but it is hoped that a continued banding program at the same colony in subsequent years may result in the establishment of other important recovery points along the migration routes of this important "globe trotter."—Oscar Hawksley, Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri.

Saw-whet Owl Recommended Band Size Questionable. On completion of our first 14 years of bird-banding activities over 200 Saw-whet Owls, *Aegolius acadicus* (Gmelin), have been captured and banded by our Toronto group of banders. The first capture of this particular species was managed in 1934, and was the only one observed by us that year. The year 1935, again, was marked by one lone capture; 1936 produced three; 1937: 2; 1938: 1; and in 1939 no less than 18 of these fascinating little mousers were caught, banded, and sent on their way. Between the latter year and 1947 an average of from 18 to 25 birds were handled by us each season. The fall of 1948 proved to be our jack pot year, with no fewer than 62 individual birds being banded up till the end of December.

From all of the above banded birds, one lone individual has been entered in the return class. This Saw-whet Owl was banded on October 29, 1939 and was shot with an air gun by a lad at London, Ontario on November 24, 1939; one month after banding and a distance of 120 miles away.

With our first capture, back in 1934, we had to use a No. 4 size band. A No. 3 size (recommended in "Manual for Bird Banders") proved too small. The second bird captured required a No. 5 for a proper fit on the bird's tarsus. This procedure was maintained until the year 1942; when a startling discovery was accidentally made. A bird had been captured, a No. 5 band affixed to its left tarsus and placed in a cloth bag for releasing at dusk; which is my usual procedure with owls. Dusk descended and on removing the bird from the bag I proceeded to recheck the serial number before releasing. To my amazement, the band was gone, and on further investigation it lay, torn open, in the bottom of the bag. A few days later two individuals were captured, and out of curiosity I took them home; banded both with a No. 5 size (in both cases the No. 4 band was too tight on the heavily feathered leg) and placed in individual cages. Three consecutive nights, both birds, either removed or badly bent the bands. This brought about a belief that possibly all of our Saw-whet Owl bandings had been in vain; hence a new procedure had to be adopted. Both birds were fitted with a clipped No. 6, which is a much stiffer and heavier gage of aluminum band, and returned to their cages. Two nights passed without any mishap and both birds were released. Since then our procedure has proven satisfactory.

In concluding, it appears, that a No. 5 band, made of the same material as that of the No. 6 would be ideal for this small and beneficial mouser, the Saw-whet Owl.—Gordon Lambert, 126 Boulton Ave., Toronto, Ontario.

Two-brooded Starlings.—Mrs. Nice's query (1949. *Bird-Banding*, 20: 125. Review no. 90) on the number of broods raised by the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in America prompts the following:

Kalmbach (1931. U. S. Dept. Agr., Farm. Bull. 1571, p. 6) says: "Two broods are raised each year by many pairs and rarely a third is hatched." My observations in Baltimore have so regularly shown two broods to be raised that I believe this to be the rule.