

at the feeding or banding station, I do suggest it as one of the best baits for year round use and one of the most economical when home grown.

--Route 1, Box 376, Leesburg, Virginia

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#### STILL MORE ABOUT BAND SIZES

In a number of the recent issues of EBBA NEWS, there have been a number of communications dealing with the proper size bands to use on various species of birds, especially in so far as members have taken exception to the suggested sizes which the banding office has offered in various of their publications. In all fairness to the central office, it should be pointed out that their list of suggested sizes is based on information sent to them by banders in the field and that they have appealed to banders to bring to their attention any obvious misinformation which may have appeared. It is to be hoped that the various suggestions offered in this publications by many persons will assist them in revising their list for future publication.

Before proceeding further with discussion of the topic of band sizes, attention should be drawn to the provocative article in the current issue of BIRD-BANDING by EBBA member Dr. Charles H. Blake of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Biology Department. This article is in the January, 1954 issue (Vol. XXV, No. 1, pp. 11-16). In passing, it should be remarked that the Editor of this excellent journal is EBBA member E. Alexander Bergstrom.

From Frank Frazier, EBBA TREASURER, comes the following note: "With regard to using size 0 on Juncos, I am entirely in accord with C. Hapgood Parks. (This is contrary to the recommendation of Dr. Blake (EBBA NEWS, May-June, 1953, pp. 6-7) that size 1 be used for the Junco; in the same communication he recommends size 1B for the Song Sparrow, exception to which is taken below. It would appear to the Editor that further study of the problem of leg sizes is indicated, for, as suggested by Dr. Blake (Op. cit.), it is possible that different populations vary in tarsus size. Before undertaking such studies, members are urged to consult Dr. Blake's article in BIRD-BANDING cited above.)

Mr. Frazier continues, "I have banded more than 1900 Juncos in

the past five years and have consistently used No. 0. This size fits perfectly so far as I have been able to observe. I have had some 1200 repeats and returns and believe that size 0 is an ideal fit.

"I agree with Parks also with regard to size 1 for Song Sparrows. In banding some 286 individuals during the past five years, I have had only one instance in which I thought this size band was too snug. (In accordance with this observation, is the finding of a banded Song Sparrow by Dr. Paul H. Fluck, Lambertville, New Jersey, on January 31, 1954, which your editor saw, in which it appeared that the size 1 band used on it had been too snug. Dr. Fluck advanced the hypothesis that the difficulty was caused by the accumulation of snow or ice between the band and the leg. Your Editor and wife, in the banding of some 1500 Song Sparrows, have found no apparent difficulty in a considerable number of repeats and returns for this species.)

Further comment re the correct size for the Eastern Song Sparrow comes from Mr. W. M. Davidson, 1504 Bodell Street, Orlando, Florida, who writes as follows: "I have found the tarsus of this bird tending to be carinate (Keel-shaped, or oval-Ed.) and that a No. 1 band tends to compress the 'keel'. Therefore, I believe that a 1B band is safer."

Further support for Dr. Blake's recommendation comes from Marie Dumont (Mrs. G. A. Dumont, Sr.), 311 Pompton Turnpike, Pequannock, New Jersey, who says, "...I still am of the opinion that the No. 1 band is a little too snug on Song Sparrows unless it happens to be a small bird. I use mostly 1B, but occasionally a size 1 is applied. After twenty-one years of banding, we have found no ill effects from using bands that allow a little more space between band and leg, and we do get a goodly number of returns."

From Prof. LeRoy C. Stegeman, College of Forestry, State University of New York, Syracuse 10, New York, comes the following comment concerning band sizes for two species:

"I have seen no comment on the recommended band sizes for the White-throated Sparrow and the White-crowned Sparrow, and yet, in my limited experience with these two species, the leg of the White-crowned Sparrow seemed the larger. The directions call for a number 1 band for the White-crowned Sparrow and for a number 1B band for the White-

throated Sparrow. I should think the White-crowned Sparrow also should have a 1-B size." (In banding some forty of the latter species, your Editor, wife, and father-in-law have found the 1-B to be the best fit.)

A final comment concerning band sizes is from J. George Hitchner, 58 Kenton Avenue, Pitman, New Jersey, who tells of his experience with a Scarlet Tanager: "A week ago, on May 22, I banded my first Scarlet Tanager - a beautiful crimson male! I put the recommended 1A on the bird and immediately took it off with my diagonal cutting pliers. A 1B was quite loose, and I wondered if this should be the recommended size. This backs up Father Stoehr in the January 1953 EBBA NEWS." (Your Editor and wife have banded but two Scarlet Tanagers, an immature male and an immature female, and in both cases they felt that 1A bands were a good fit, although the bands they used were of 1940 vintage. They thought that the 1B band was too snug.)

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#### CONCERNING FOREHEAD INJURIES

In the July-August issue (PP. 6-7) there are comments on forehead injuries by Mrs. Ernest E. Wanek and Dr. Paul H. Fluck. Along this same line are two more communications.

Dr. Stegeman also wrote about a Cardinal with head injury. He says, "In June 1951 I caught a female Cardinal in a single-cell trip-step trap. The bird had severely injured the top of its head. The top of the cranium was completely bare for the front two-thirds, and the bird was in a stupor. After giving it a drink of water, I carefully coated the skull with sterile glycerine. Several applications were made during the day, and, by evening, the Cardinal was feeding and drinking and moving about. The following morning she seemed quite alert. Two more applications of glycerine were made that forenoon, and at noon the bird was released at the trapsite. It seemed normal in every respect. About one month later it was seen in a nearby woods and was in good condition but without feathers on the top of the head.

"Perhaps Oxycel which was suggested by Dr. Fluck would have been much better. The glycerine evidently kept the tissue soft enough to heal and protected the area sufficiently for the bird to recover. This was more than I hoped for when I first saw the Cardinal."