

BAND SIZES AGAIN!  
by C. Hapgood Parks

Somehow or other, almost every mention of band sizes seems to agitate my typewriter. This time I must take issue with my very good friend, Arthur Fast, regarding bands for Purple Finches. (Nov-Dec EBBA News, p. 10-Ed.)

Among the 4,736 Purple Finch tarsi to which we have attached No. 1 bands at our station, not even one has been found to be sufficiently large as to cause too snug a fit.

We have trapped tragic little 'foreigners' tugging enormous 1A bands along with them. The 1B's aren't as bad, of course, but they are, I believe, as much too large for Purple Finches as were the No. 2 bands for Evening Grosbeaks before the present heavy-gauge No. 1a's became available.

Of course, every precaution must be taken against constricting the tarsus, but I do believe that too many loose bands are being used.

A needless amount of wear and tear on the tarsus must result from the rubbing of these loose bands as the bird hops about, to say nothing of the greater liability of becoming caught on twigs, grass, etc. And, besides, did you ever experience the discomfort of a too loose wrist-watch? Little wonder we used to find so many over-lapped and partially opened No. 2 bands, mutilated by the discomforted Evening Grosbeaks that were compelled to wear them. The more snugly fitting No. 1A bands (of the same gauge material) almost never show any such mutilation. The better fit is an important factor, I think, since the bird's attention is no longer attracted to the band by the discomfort which naturally attends the presence on its leg of the too large No. 2.

Relative to the need for keeping bands in 'a perfect circle', may I suggest that we have found that a little time invested in preparing Kennard type pliers for bands of sizes 0 to 3, inclusive, has insured accurately closed 'perfect circles' when ever one of these bands is used? -- 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford 5, Connecticut

\* \* \*