

IN PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS -- USE PROPS!



This toothpick shows size of Sharp-shinned Hawk's leg. Note that this is an injured bird (it was shot) and is wrapped in a child's sock. Photo by Norman Fisher.

MIST NETTING
IN PANAMA

Arthur Fast, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Va., writes that he visited Panama and the Canal Zone for 17 days in February, 1957. Weatherwise the trip was perfect. The steady trade-wind kept the air fresh, even the temperatures were mid-summer warm. On the coldest night of the winter in Balboa, a low of 68 degrees was registered. He spent about half of the time on Barro Colorado Island (in Gatun Lake), a refuge and research center under the supervision of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Carl B. Koford (formerly of California and author of the National Audubon Society's Research Report on the California Condor) is Resident Naturalist there. He has several mist nets and is able to spend a limited amount of time netting birds and bats of many species. Fast was there during the dry season, which was unusually dry this year. He tended the nets for several days, but succeeded in catching only about 12 birds and several bats; among the birds were a Plain-colored Tanager, a Golden-masked Tanager, two species of Hummingbirds - and a Yellow Warbler. Before leaving the area, Fast had the great good fortune of going out in the field with Dr. Alexander Wetmore, the foremost living authority on Panamanian birds. (See "My Tropical Air Castle", Ch. XIV, by Dr. F. M. Chapman.) On one two-months trip to that area, Dr. Wetmore collected 270 species of birds. Fast reports that the variety and numbers of tropical birds almost overwhelmed him. During his stay in the Panama area, he added 75 birds to his life list.
