

Brown Thrasher	110157	Banded in 1923
Common Tern	110166	1923

The sequence indicates that the same size was used for both species, which isn't the way we do it now. Letters were also used before the digit sequence; commonly so in the early thirties.

Black-capped Chickadee	A-36490	1923
Cardinal	A-224886	1931
Goldfinch	H-00163	1932
Crow	C-635954	1936

I don't know how far through the alphabet the bands went. Ours were mostly A's and C's. By the latter thirties the scheme of prefixing date digits was tried.

Cowbird	34-213145	1935
Duck Hawk	36-636701	1938

During the course of this experiment the bird banding office had a lot of trouble trying to make it clear that the "34" or "36" did not, after all, indicate the year in which the bird had been banded. It could be added that the examples of banded birds given above indicate only the year in which the band was used; not the year in which the band was issued.

Eventually three digit prefixes came into use with the third digit indicating the band size. Maybe in years to come it will be necessary to use letters again.

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