

A stenographer's note book fits between the band holders and the lid of the box so that the whole business can be carried around in a shoulder bag. The outside and lid of the box are covered in cellophane or plastic so that it can be laid on wet grass without damaging the box.

The threads of the stove bolts should be filed down somewhat so that they do not roughen the bands in the process of sliding them off.

SOME TIPS ABOUT BANDS FOR THE NEW BANDER by Mrs. Frank L. Townsend (July-August 1957, p. 52). When the bands first arrive, acquaint yourself as thoroughly as possible with the sizes and numbers. This will make things much easier when you actually start banding.

In the beginning you will find it necessary to check your list of band sizes with each new species trapped. Most of the time you will want to follow the band sizes suggested by the Banding Office. Occasionally, however, you will find that the suggested size is too loose or too tight, as birds' legs vary, especially in some species. You will find it easier to judge as you go along, but a leg gauge will prove helpful - one can be purchased from the Massachusetts Audubon Society at a nominal cost.

A band is too tight when it can't be turned or moved up and down freely. This is important as a too tight band interferes with circulation and may result in the withering and loss of the leg, or even death from gangrene. A too loose band is not nearly so likely to be dangerous, but it may interfere with the foot or catch on small twigs or the like.

Equally important is that the band be properly closed. It should be tightly closed, the ends in alignment and no overlap. Birds with powerful bills, such as Cardinals, have been known to crush an ill-fitting band until it is imbedded in the leg, in an effort to remove it.

FOREHEAD INJURIES by Mrs. Ernest E. Wanek (July-August 1953, p. 6). During our banding experience, we have discovered that a number of birds had injured foreheads and, at times, also injured chins, when removed from the traps. The cause seemed to be that, in their attempt to escape, they forced their mandibles through the hardware cloth, and since the openings were half-inch squares, received flesh wounds when more than their bills protruded.

We experimented with quarter-inch hardware cloth, which, in every instance so far, has eliminated the flesh wounds, although at times the bill itself may at times be slightly scraped. Dr. Paul Fluck gives the following advice about such injuries: "Best treatment for sore noses is

Parke-Davis OXYCEL which can be obtained in drug stores. Looks like cotton. Just stick a small piece on bleeding area and hold with pressure for a few seconds. Let the bird go with cotton attached. Bird watchers for miles around will go into fits raving over the 'White-nosed Whatzit' in the neighborhood - but who cares? Oxycel doesn't cost much, and a bottle will last a long time."

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY by Norman Fischer (Sept-Oct 1957, p. 73). Bird banders really have an inside track in wild bird photography... Some of the most frequently asked questions by banders visiting the Washington Crossing Park banding station are about bird photography. We'll run through some of them here on the chance that the answers gained through experience might be helpful.

What kind of camera do you use?

A Praktika (also called Rival Reflex, Praktiflex, Astraflex 35) with an f2.8 Zeiss Tessar lens with pre-set diaphragm.

How much does this cost?

About \$60.00, if bought from Peerless, Hamilton House, or several of the other large photo shops. See ads in Photography, U.S. Camera, or Modern Photography magazines.

What is the advantage of this type of camera?

Any single-lens reflex makes it easy for you to frame and focus your subject, even at extreme close-up ranges. You get what you see in the ground glass screen of the finder. The relatively low price helps make it possible to spend more on the accessories you will also need.

What accessories?

For the close-ups you need a set of extension tubes or a bellows to space your lens farther away from the body of the camera (i.e. from the film). To be sure of good lighting you should have an electronic flash (strobe) run with a ring flash unit.

All that sounds too complicated. What is this strobe and ring flash business?

Modern strobe lights are not too different from ordinary flash guns, except that you don't have to change bulbs for each shot. You'll get about 10,000 flashes from the bulb you buy. The ring flash is simply a circular tube which screws or slips on to the end of your lens and plugs into the power case of the strobe unit. It's the only gadget which gives you