

**A Loggerhead Shrike Captures a Field Sparrow While in Mid Air.**—The unusualness of the actions of the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius l. ludovicianus*) responsible for the capture of Eastern Field Sparrow (*Spizella p. pusilla*) 36-37009, makes the following record of interest. The Sparrow was banded on February 23, 1937, at Summerville, South Carolina, being caught with others in a trap set on the edge of a corn field. As is occasionally the case, the captive Field Sparrows in the trap had attracted the attention of a Loggerhead Shrike and it must have sat on a pine tree close by when the writer approached to band the Sparrows in the trap. The Shrike evidently was an interested onlooker during the time the birds were being removed from the trap to the gathering cage, and while the band was being placed around the leg of a Field Sparrow, for no sooner was the Sparrow released from my hand than the Shrike swooped down from its vantage point in the pine tree and seized the just-released Field Sparrow out of the air.

In the writer's experience it is rare for the Loggerhead Shrike to pursue and capture small birds, its diet usually being confined to insects, but in this case the Shrike not only pursued and captured the sparrow in the air, but used its feet, instead of its bill, to make the initial seizure. This hold was not retained long, however, for the Shrike immediately flew in the direction of some nearby hardwood sprouts. The Field Sparrow up to this point was apparently unharmed, as it fluttered its wings in an effort to escape. In the hope that the Loggerhead might be scared into releasing its prey, the writer yelled loudly and dashed off in the direction of the clump of sprout growth, but in vain. During the time it took to travel from the trap to the sprouts, the Shrike changed its hold while perched on one of them, this time picking up the Field Sparrow with its bill, and with this much firmer grip on its prey, it flew to some tall deciduous trees, where the black and white marauder and its victim were lost sight of.—EDWIN A. MASON, Wharton Bird-Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts.

**Welding Celluloid Bands.**—As many bird-banders know, the celluloid bands have many advantages over those made of metal: Light weight, availability of many colors, and ease of attachment without tools are some of these. The chief disadvantage has been that the celluloid bands will frequently come off, and the loss of a percentage of bands is disastrous to many experiments.

To eliminate this loss, the writer experimented with acetone, and finds that the loose end of the band may readily be welded in a tight seal. The method is simple, and requires little time to execute. One simply attaches the band in the usual manner, adjusts it to the correct size, lifts the outside end enough to introduce a drop of C. P. Acetone under it from a pipette, and presses the end firmly against the band ring. A pair of tweezers allows a firm grip and prevents the dissolved celluloid from adhering to the fingers. Another drop of acetone may now be placed along the edge of the band end, and the tweezers shifted to grip over this. After five seconds, the tweezers may be removed, and the end will be found to have welded firmly into the band circle. When very young birds are banded, the band should be adjusted to the size of the adult leg before sealing.—WARNER O. NAGEL, Research Associate, Collaborator, Missouri Wildlife Research Unit.

---

## RECENT LITERATURE

(Reviews by Margaret M. Nice and Thomas T. McCabe)

### BIRD BANDING

**1. Banding in North America.**—1937. *Bird Banding Notes*, 2 (15): 247-268. From July 1936 to July 1937, 300,894 birds were banded in North America, the grand total since 1920 reaching 2,482,044. Those banded in largest numbers were: Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) 29,112; Common Tern (*Sterna h. hirundo*) 25,354; Junco (*Junco hyemalis-oreganus* group) 17,966, Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) 16,304; Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 15,753; White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) 15,716; Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzizihoa*) 11,767; Song Sparrow