

been continuously present since it was banded. Its behavior is consonant with other observations of mine that trapping intervals for chickadees are clearly longer in December, January, May, and June than during the rest of the year.—Charles H. Blake, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

Band Sizes for Evening Grosbeaks.—I understand that some controversy has arisen among banders regarding the proper size of band to use on Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina* Cooper). May I offer our experience in this matter for whatever it may be worth?

Prior to the appearance, in the spring of 1950, of the heavier gauge No. 1A bands we had used 2315 bands of the No. 2 size on this species. Overlapped and partially reopened bands were embarrassingly common on our repeats, returns, and recoveries. Mutilation of the old, lightweight No. 1A bands was even worse.

On March 6, 1950, we received our first string of the heavier size 1A. With the cooperation of E. A. Carrier, a local bander, we proceeded to make a study of the comparative success of the two sizes. A composite summary of our observations follows:

Between March 7 and May 21 the No. 2 bands worn by 255 repeating Evening Grosbeaks were examined. Of these, 17 were overlapped, 15 were partly opened, 9 were flattened, and one bird (identified by the plastic bands which were being used concurrently) repeated with its No. 2 aluminum band missing entirely. During the same period the No. 1A bands on 127 repeats were examined. Of these, 1 was slightly overlapped, 1 was slightly opened, and 9 were slightly flattened.

In brief, almost 1 out of every 6 of the No. 2 bands had been mutilated by the bird to whose tarsus it had been attached. Meanwhile, only about 1 out of every 12 No. 1A bands showed any mutilation whatsoever and any mutilation which had occurred was, in every case, less serious than that of the larger No. 2 bands. What is more, almost every one of the No. 2 bands which showed mutilation required readjustment and, sometimes, replacement, whereas the mutilation of the No. 1A bands was so insignificant that in almost no instance was any readjustment required.

To those who fear that the No. 1A bands are too small for the tarsi of this species let me add that we have now used 816 of the heavy 1A bands on Evening Grosbeaks without even one of the bands fitting too snugly. During the present 1951-52 season we have used, to this writing, 332 of the 1A size and not one of our repeats has worn a band which has needed readjustment. On the other hand, the only two recoveries which we have trapped wearing No. 2 bands were compelled to undergo a major readjustment of their bands before they could be released without at least potential tarsal damage.

It has been intimated that some banders who may be willing to use the 1A size on female Evening Grosbeaks hesitate to use them on the males, believing, apparently, that the tarsi of the latter sex are larger. Allow me to report that we have found that the size of the tarsi of both sexes varies very appreciably. It has been our experience that the tarsus upon which the 1A band fits most snugly belongs more often to a female than to a male. But, let me repeat, please, we have yet to find a member of either sex whose tarsus was too large to accept the 1A band with perfect safety.—G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warrenton Avenue, Hartford, Conn.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

(See also Numbers 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 28, 31, 41, and 42.)

1. Bird-Banding in Norway 1950. Holger Holgersen. 1951. *Stavanger Museum Smaskrifter, Zoologisk Serie*, Nr. 3. 35 pp. This paper is a joint report of the banding activities of Statens Viltundersøkelse, Oslo, and the Zoological Department, Stavanger Museum. During 1950, 9434 birds were banded. Species