

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). The practical solution for this species is to use size 1B.

In conclusion, there is still scope for much more work along this line. We know nothing as yet about subspecific or sexual differences. It is known that nestlings have eventually stouter legs than adults but we know nothing certain about actual sizes or changes with age. I think it probable that most nestlings at banding age will require bands one size larger than those given in Table III. As far as we can go now there is no substitute for good judgment in the selection of band sizes.

#### REFERENCES

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1947 Band size determination. *Bird-Banding*, **18**: 77-79, 1 fig.

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#### GENERAL NOTES

**Leg color of Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers.**—Peterson (*Field Guide to the Birds*, 1947, p. 201) states as a distinction between these two warblers that the Blackpoll has yellowish legs and the Bay-breast blackish ones. This puzzled me because a considerable proportion of the fall birds I have handled which gave no evidence of being Bay-breasts had, however, tarsi which were mostly dark brown. Three "text-book" Bay-breasts handled this fall had gray or dark gray legs. The toes are almost the same color as the tarsi. The gray is sometimes lighter than the brown of the Blackpoll. The position seems to be that the Blackpoll has yellow legs with the tarsi more or less obscured by dark brown. In extreme cases there may be no brown. At the other extreme only the ridge of the posterior lamella (less than 1 mm. wide) and the sides and soles of the toes may be light. The real difference is brown versus gray. Field observers will have to draw their own conclusions.—Charles H. Blake, Mass. Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

**Six-year-old Tree Swallow.**—Tree swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), in my experience, are rather short-lived birds. During the past eleven years up to this summer only one has returned the fifth year after banding. On June 18, 1953, however, I trapped my second return—5. Banded on July 6, 1948, as an adult male, this bird has returned every year since, being taken this year on June 18. Thus he was then at least six years old.—William P. Wharton, Groton, Mass.

#### RECENT LITERATURE

##### BANDING

**1. Vogelwarte Cooperators.** (Über den Mitarbeiterstab der Vogelwarten.) 1953. F. Goethe and R. Kuhk. *Die Vogelwarte*, **16**(4): 138-143. In celebration of the 60th birthday of Dr. Rudolf Drost, Director of Vogelwarte Helgoland, the spring 1953 number of *Die Vogelwarte* is a jubilee issue. Germany has two major ornithological stations, the functions of which are somewhat similar to those of the Patuxent Research Refuge. Vogelwarte Helgoland and Vogelwarte Radolfzell are not only national banding centers, but also conduct and direct studies on migration, ecology and conservation of birds. This paper deals with German banders, tabulates the walks of life from which they come, and attempts to answer the question, "Why do they band?"—Frances Hamerstrom.