FIGURE 1. Reusable cassette holder for small butt-end aluminum bands.

projects and issued as flat sheets of thin aluminum can be placed in cassettes after being cut, trimmed, smoothed and shaped.—DAVID J. ROSLIEN, *Department of Biology, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa* 52101. Received 11 July 1974, accepted 28 July 1974.

A note on familial longevity in Eastern Bluebirds.—Passerine adults usually do not remain paired for more than one nesting season, and the bond between adults and young normally does not persist after the latter attain independence. The Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), however, appears atypical in its familial attachments. Nice ("Studies in the life history of the Song Sparrow, I", 1937) stated that bluebird families may remain together until late fall, and Thomas (*Wilson Bull.*, **58:** 143-183, 1946) noted several cases of bluebird mates remaining paired for two successive nesting seasons.

On 5 June 1973 two young bluebirds fledged from a nest at Stony Creek Park near Washington, Michigan. Both young, one of each sex, were color-banded, as were the adults that soon began a second nest at the same site. The young remained in the general area of the nest, and on 4 August three fledglings (all color-banded males) left the second nest. All five young from both broods and the parents were seen together on 9 and 21 September as part of a group of 25 bluebirds that fed near the former nest. On 22 September most of the flock disappeared, apparently leaving for the wintering grounds. This departing group included both fledglings from the first brood and one from the second brood, as well as all but three of the other 18 flock members. The breeding pair and two young from the second brood remained.

One of the two remaining juveniles was last seen on 6 October. The other young bird remained with its parents throughout the winter (the majority of bluebirds at this latitude are migratory). During the winter the family group was often seen together. The birds were rarely more than 25 to 100 meters apart. Agonistic encounters were infrequent. Bathing, preening, feeding, visiting fruit stands (invariably *Rhus typhina*), and flying long distances were typically accomplished in unison. All three birds appeared to roost intermittently in a nesting box located one-fourth mile north of the original nest site.

The family group was last seen together on 31 March 1974, the date on which the adult male and female commenced nesting at the original site. The young male continued to occupy the area around the roost site, which he occupied alone on 5 April. Once he was aggressively repelled by the older male when he approached the adults' nest. He left the roost area on 6 April, but was again observed on 11 April approximately one mile south of his birthplace. In the interim he had obtained a mate, and the pair immediately began nesting in the new location.

Whereas it is interesting to note the unusual longevity of the family bond in this instance, the exact timing of its severance (at the onset of nest-building by the adults) and the behavior of the young male after it was apparently repelled by its male parent is equally noteworthy.—Benedict C. Pinkowski, *60510 Campground, Washington, Mich.* 48094. Received 5 May 1974, accepted 6 August 1974.

Recovery of a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.—Banders look forward to the day when one of their birds will be recovered or reported at some distant location. This gives meaning and pleasure to the hours spent mist-netting and banding. For me, such a moment occurred in 1972 when one of 167 banded Semipalmated Sandpiper) (*Calidris pusillus*) was recovered. Band number 800-24307 was placed on this bird at the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area in central Kansas on 6 May 1972. It was reported at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska on 30 June 1972 where the bird was breeding. The bird was captured by Dr. Wayne C. Hanson during an ecological study of the birds and mammals in the vicinity of the Alaskan Arctic Gas Study Company experimental natural gas pipeline test facility six miles south of Prudhoe Bay.

The banded Semipalmated Sandpiper arrived at Prudhoe Bay approximately one month after it was banded (2 or 3 June 1972). The banded bird's mate was caught and banded at the nest on 24 June and the earlier banded bird was caught at the nest on 30 June. To facilitate observation the birds were color-marked with red/white celluloid leg rings. Both adults and their chicks were observed on the 3rd and 5th days after hatching and within 90 to 150 meters of the nest. Semipalmated Sandpiper parents promptly moved their chicks to the vicinity of the larger thaw-ponds in the area to escape human activity and the predation of Arctic Foxes (*Alopex lagopus*) and Pomarine Jaegers (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). Care was taken by project personnel not to excite or desperse the birds studied. The observations were terminated when the family groups moved beyond the study area.

This recovery is one of nine recoveries of Semipalmated Sandpipers banded at the Cheyenne Bottoms WMA since the beginning of the shorebird banding program in 1967. Four of them were recovered in Guyana, and one each from Brazil, Surinam, Dominican Republic, and New Jersey. Two foreign-banded Semipalmated Sandpipers have been mist-netted during banding operations at the Cheyenne Bottoms; both were banded at Barrow, Alaska. A Semipalmated