

## MORE ABOUT BAND SIZES

Arthur H. Fast, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington 7, Virginia, writes as follows on the subject of band sizes, a topic to which not a little attention has been devoted during the past year.

"I have banded more than 1200 Juncos in eight years and have had about 8% returns. I agree with Mr. Frazier that size 0 is an ideal fit. In my experience, there is less variation in the size of the tarsus in the Junco than in most other species.

"Size 1 seems right for most Song Sparrows. There is some variation in the sizes of their tarsi, and, for those with larger tarsi, size 1B probably would be preferable. However, size 1 has been used in all but a few instances.

"Size 1B seems preferable to me for Purple Finches. I have banded a total of about 800 of this species. Two years ago, I banded those in female plumage with size 1 and those in male plumage with size 1B. The size 1 must be kept a perfect circle in the banding process to avoid too snug a fit.

"Permit me to suggest a new band size for birds such as the Brown Thrasher -- size 2A. The tarsus of this bird is carinate or oval, and size 2 is too snug a fit for most Brown Thrashers. The size 3 band is much too large."

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## THIS RECOVERY RAISES AN INTERESTING QUESTION

A Laughing Gull (495-79542) banded at Ring Island, Stone Harbor, New Jersey, July 16, 1953, by June R. Conway (recorded under permit #5383, Albert E. Conway, although she also bands under her own permit #7120), was shot at Coyuca de Benitez, on the Coyuca River, Guerrero, Mexico, February 2, 1954. Since this location is on the Pacific rather than the Atlantic coast, the question is raised as to how frequently this occurs; in addition, one wonders how the bird got there. Did it fly over the mountains which are quite high, or did it follow a ship through the Panama Canal and then move northward along the coast. It is hoped that perusal of the records at the Banding Office may throw some light on these questions.