

Some of the bands issued some years ago have inside diameters that differ from those given above. If the bander should still have such bands on hand, or should receive some in the future, he can easily provide for them by additional notches in the gauge, or, better, in another gauge.

One of these gauges sent to Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln elicited the following statement. "In my opinion you have hit upon a real idea, one that is sure to be of service to all station operators, but particularly to those who are just starting the work. As is not unusual with articles for which there is a need, it is a simple device. That is the reason it is particularly good. . . ."

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GENERAL NOTES

An Old Herring Gull.—A Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* Coues, No. A609261, banded as a nestling by W. G. Means, R. J. Eaton, *et al.*, on South Gooseberry Island, Beverly, Massachusetts, on June 21, 1930, was found dying by Gail Wolff of Berkeley, California, on August 5, 1945, at Cape Ann, Massachusetts, within ten or fifteen miles of the banding station. Aside from the fact that this gull lived to the ripe old age of fifteen years, the recovery is interesting as added evidence of the tendency of birds of this species to spend their adult lives in the general region of their birthplace.—RICHARD J. EATON, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Returns of Banded Birds at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary.—On February 6, 1947, at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary I trapped a male Hairy Woodpecker, *Dryobates villosus villosus* (Linn.), No. 39-307551, which had been banded by Dr. George Wallace January 19, 1939, at this same place, making this bird at least 7½ years old.

On September 26, 1946, at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary a Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata bromia* Oberh., No. 39-307556, was trapped by me which had been banded at the sanctuary by Dr. Wallace on November 22, 1939, making the bird well over seven years old at least.—ALVAH W. SANBORN, Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Massachusetts.

Aged Chickadee, Tree Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow.—On November 12, 1939, I banded a Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus atricapillus* Linn.) 139-94096 at my banding station at Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts. This bird repeated frequently up to December 2, 1945, when it was last taken, being then at least in its seventh year. A record of a chickadee over nine years of age is given by Wharton (*Bird-Banding*, 1946, 17: 39). Harding (*Bird-Banding*, 1942, 13: 120) reports one at least six years old.

Eastern Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea arborea* (Wilson)) 139-94139 was banded by me on December 11, 1939. It repeated on February 23 and 27, 1940, and returned on January 11, 1941, and again on January 13, 1947. When last captured it was in its eighth year. Middleton (*Bird-Banding*, 1943, 14: 64) reports two Eastern Tree Sparrows, each one at least seven years old.

I banded an adult male Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina passerina* (Bechst)) 139-38306 on May 28, 1939. It repeated on April 30 and on May 5,

1939, but was not captured by me again until April 29, 1945, when it was at least six years of age.—OSCAR M. ROOT, Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts.

An Accidentally Trapped Vireo.—Having just had my bird traps in working order for two days at my new home, I was not expecting anything unusual for a long time. On August 4, 1946, when I returned from work I closed the traps as usual. Upon looking out at the three-way clover trap I noticed that it had a bird in one compartment. As I approached I at once recognized the bird as a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus* (Linn.)), which surprised me greatly since I had baited the traps with grain only. When I got to the trap I found in another compartment of the clover trap a fledgling cowbird (*Molothrus ater* (Bodd.)). It dawned upon me that the cowbird entered the trap after the grain and, still being fed by its foster parent, the vireo, was followed into the trap by this latter species. I banded the vireo first and released it. It did not fly away but remained in the tree just over my head. When I released the cowbird it was joined immediately by the vireo, who escorted it away into the treetops and out of the yard.—J. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

An Unusually Persistent Yellow-breasted Chat.—On July 13, 1946, I came upon the nest of a Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens* (Linn.)) in a *Cornus resinosa* bush on a hill not far from the city of Ithaca, New York.

Knowing the reputation that chats have for deserting their nests I was afraid that this bird would do likewise. Petrides (1938) found several nests where the birds were not as timid as he had been led to believe and as a result he secured several excellent photographs as well as considerable life history material from a blind set up three feet from the nests.

The history of this nest follows more closely those that Petrides studied than those of most people. Upon returning to the nest on July 17 I was pleasantly relieved to find the bird still on the nest and unwilling to leave until I had approached to within ten feet. When I got to the nest the female had retreated to the back of the bush and remained there uttering several guttural clucks and an occasional loud, clear, somewhat sharp call. I cleared away obstructing leaves and placed a blind about six feet from the nest and left it there for the night. Returning on July 18 I got some very good pictures, both movies and stills, with no trouble at all. In fact she was a very easy bird to work with. Several other people interested in securing some good pictures used the blind before I removed it to await the hatching of the eggs.

Not knowing how long the eggs had been incubated I returned to visit the nest daily, expecting each time to find the young. On August 3 the bird stopped incubation, for upon arriving at the nest I found one egg was missing, one had two holes in it, one was found on the ground some ten feet from the nest and the fourth was still in the nest in good condition but cold. From the day on which I first found this nest the bird sat on the eggs twenty days before leaving. Very likely I did not find the nest on the first day of incubation so possibly the chat incubated these eggs for more than twenty days. Petrides found eleven days to be the incubation period for the nests he observed, and Burns (1915) reports the incubation period to be fifteen days.

Aside from the fact that a chat nest containing four eggs in August is an unusual record it seems that the persistence of this individual bird is worthy of record.

LITERATURE CITED

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1915. *Wilson Bulletin*, 27 (1): 286.

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1938. A life history study of the Yellow-breasted Chat. *Wilson Bulletin*, 50 (3): 184-189.

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