

In banding some Evening Grosbeaks with a similar device, I have found that when handling several birds at once, it is useful to have more than one opened band handy. The dowel which I use is a longer rod than Mr. Shaub's, tapered to a point at one end, and grooved at the other, but it also has a middle section with parallel sides so that several bands may be kept on the rod in addition to the one for the bird at hand. This untapered and ungrooved portion of the rod may be as long as two to three inches, making the overall length of the rod six or seven inches. The rod is a little unwieldy at first, but becomes a great timesaver with practice.

It is best not to allow celluloid bands to remain open on the rod more than a half-day or full day, since if left longer they are likely to lose their springiness.—George G. Loring, 38 Sea Street, Manchester, Massachusetts.

Another "Black Mark" Against the Red Squirrel.—On Wednesday, June 23, 1948, we arrived at our isolated cabin which sits very close to the edge of high tide in Millbridge, Maine. As we approached the cabin a Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia* (Linnaeus), flushed from the path just thirty-five feet from the back door. A brief search revealed its simple, but tidy, nest with four cream-colored, irregularly brown-spotted eggs, almost in the middle of the path. Through Friday and Saturday the bird flushed whenever we left the cabin, but she always returned to the nest after very brief absences. Red squirrels were about, but they paid no apparent attention to the bird nor she to them. In fact, on Saturday as she was returning to her nest we observed a red squirrel playing about on the beach very close to her and actually twice running in a circle around her. The bird and the squirrel approached the nest simultaneously and, as the squirrel jumped almost directly over the nest, the Sandpiper fluffed her feathers and raised her wings and tail in an attitude of protest. No further incident was observed that day, but early Sunday morning we discovered that one of the eggs was missing. About mid-morning the bird's complaining cries were heard from the vicinity of the nest and she was seen running about among the beach-pea vines nearby. Then a red squirrel ran from the nest with one of the eggs in its mouth. The contents of the egg spilled out over the rocks as he scampered away. A moment later my rifle spoke, but it was too late to save even the one remaining egg. During the remainder of Sunday morning the Sandpiper returned several times to the nest, but never once did she appear at ease. She pecked about in the vicinity of the nest crying almost constantly in her plaintive way, but she was always nervously on the move. With the sun still high in the sky that afternoon she flew away and was never again seen thereabouts. The lone egg lay in the nest for the next five weeks; then it, too, disappeared.—G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warren-ton Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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BANDING

(See also 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 23.)

1. The Pied Flycatcher. I. Ortstreue and Formation of Races. (Der Trauerfliegenschnäpper. I. Ortstreue und Rassenbildung.) Lars von Haartman. 1949. *Acta Zoologica Fennica*, 56: 1-104. A very fine study of *Muscicapa hypoleuca* (Pallas) on about four square kilometers in southwestern Finland, some 3500 hours during eight years having been devoted to the project. "In order to investigate the natural history of a species, three things are most important: field glasses, colored rings, and industry." The birds were caught in the nest boxes. Of 187 adult males, 70 (37 percent) returned; of 177 adult females, 19 (11 percent) returned; of 851 nestlings, 9 (1 percent) returned. The author