

The grinding must be done in water. The writer found that the work can be done satisfactorily by using a small hardwood block about $1\frac{3}{4} \times 3 \times 4$ inches with a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch hole drilled an inch from an edge and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep. Place the block in a small photographic tray to prevent wetting the machine. The hole in the block is filled with water until the overflow forms a puddle an inch in diameter around the hole. Adjust the position of the block so that it has a clearance of about $1/32$ inch below the wheel. While the wheel is rotating about 750 R.P.M. bring the jaws of the pliers into the correct position and lightly close the jaws onto the rotating wheel. The metal will be removed to make a cylindrical hole. The location of the hole should be far enough from the point of the pliers so that the periphery will not reach the point but it will leave a suitable bearing surface of about $1/16$ inch in width. During grinding the drill spindle should be raised and lowered to keep the hole cylindrical and maintain an even wear of the wheel. The size of the wheel will be reduced rather rapidly so that the diameter obtained when the jaws meet will be considerably less than the initial diameter of the wheel. If the wear is too fast the hole will be too small and a slightly larger wheel will be required to complete the work. If the wheel does not wear fast enough the hole will be too large, hence one must make frequent checks on the diameter of the grinding wheel or of the hole in order to finish with a hole of the required size. It is important to keep the wheel running in a puddle of water, otherwise the metal will burn or the wheel will become glazed with steel particles.

For the various sized bands one would have to select suitable wheels at the beginning and check the work as it progresses. Wheels used initially for large holes can be used later for smaller ones. The sharp edge of the hole on the inside of the jaws should be slightly rounded to avoid marking the bands.

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1929. Pliers for Bird Banding. *Bull. Northeastern Bird-Banding Assoc.*, Vol. V, pp. 105-108.

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The voice of *Nyctibius griseus*.—Little has been published about the call-notes of the neotropical caprimuliform Nyctibiidae, or Potoos. The northernmost of the continental forms, *Nyctibius griseus mexicanus* Nelson, ranges in western Mexico as far north as Sinaloa (Peters, 1940, *Check-List of Birds of the World*, 4: 180), and in eastern Mexico at least to the Sabinas valley in south-western Tamaulipas. Here I have seen and heard it repeatedly.

My first meeting with the bird was at nightfall on March 17, 1941 (Sutton and Pettingill, 1942, *Auk*, 59: 16). That evening I had been hunting along a well-defined trail through the wild pineapple thicket. In the gathering dusk I continued to hear a strange, loud, not at all birdlike, cry. Listening carefully, I decided that the sound was coming not from a trail or clearing but from the thicket itself. The rough-voiced *wow* or *baw* was repeated at intervals of about twenty seconds. It continued to be a single note, but its volume had increased somewhat by the tenth or twelfth repetition. I cautiously approached the sound, which seemed to stop while I was moving, but to start again whenever I stood still. At length, off in the woods, I saw a dark spot about 15 feet above the ground on what must have been a leafless branch. The spot moved a little as the queer *wow* sounded. Aiming carefully, I shot, and the dark spot fell. I was amazed when I picked up a Potoo, a species I had not dreamed of collecting in that region.

In April, 1941 we encountered *Nyctibius griseus* frequently, usually in the late evening or at night. We collected three more specimens (April 8, 11 and 13). Knowing that the species lived about us, we attributed to it various "rough squawks, screams and hoots" heard from time to time along the river or on the foothill just to the west. The cries I actually saw it give in April I described in my notes as 'queer,' 'owl-like,' and 'grating,' but part of my entry for March 17 reads: "Cry a wild 'wow'—rough and terrifying. Sounds big enough for a great cat."

I have described the cry of *Nyctibius* as a "genuinely terrifying sound, like the bawling of an angry bear" (1945, *Audubon Magazine*, 47: 39). This comparison

—based to some extent on an experience with a mother black bear and two small cubs disturbed on Vancouver Island—has seemed overdrawn; but when, in mid-January, 1949, I again heard the nocturnal bawling of *Nyctibius*, the adjective *terrifying* seemed apt since it was loud enough to call to mind a creature far larger than a Potoo.

The *Nyctibius* cries heard nightly from January 15 to 19 near Pano Ayuctle (Pumpkin Ford), along the Rio Sabinas, must have been songs, properly speaking, for they followed a definite pattern. Starting with a rough, vibrant, almost bellowed-out *waw, wow, or baw*, repeated with a full second's pause between each cry, the performance increased in tempo and volume, becoming, after the fourth or fifth repetition, a double-note: *baw-baw*. This double-note was repeated four to seven times. The last of the song trailed off somewhat, but the double-note continued to the very end. The whole song might be written thus: *baw, baw, baw, baw, baw-baw, baw-baw, baw-baw, baw-baw, baw-baw*.

Whether *Nyctibius* pairs in January in southwestern Tamaulipas remains to be ascertained. A bird which I flushed high on the foothill west of the Sabinas on April 6, 1941, acted as if it had a nest. It flew from branch to branch uttering harsh cries which sounded excited, if not angry. Never, before or since, have I known a Potoo to cry out in apparent protest at my presence.—George Miksch Sutton, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Donald S. Farner and others

BANDING

(See also Number 5.)

1. Bird-banding in Western Greenland in 1946 and 1947. (Ringmaerking af fugle i Vestergrønland 1946 og 1947.) Finn Salomonsen. 1948. (Reprint without reference to journal) 5 pp. Although a bird-banding program had been conducted by Dr. A. Bertelsen in the twenties little banding was done between 1930 and 1946. Activities were resumed in 1946 under the initiative of the author. During 1946-1947, 4,719 birds were banded. There have been 192 recoveries and returns in Greenland and 31 foreign recoveries. The latter have been reported in *Dansk Ornithologisk Forenings Tidsskrift*, 41: 141-143 (1947) and 42: 100-102 (1948). Species banded in greatest numbers were the Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis* (Linnaeus) 522; Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides* Meyer 395; Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla* (Linnaeus) 564; Arctic Tern, *Sterna macroura* Naumann 874; Little Auk, *Alle alle* (Linnaeus) 298; and White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* (Scopoli) 301.—D.S.F.

2. Bird-banding Activities in Belgium in 1948. (Oeuvre du baguage des oiseaux en Belgique.) Ch. Dupond. 1949. *Le Gerfaut*, 39(3): 129-157. This is a summary of 414 recoveries and returns, mostly for 1948, of birds banded in Belgium. Species for which the greatest numbers of records were accumulated are the Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris* Linnaeus 16; Greenfinch, *Chloris chloris chloris* (Linnaeus) 19; Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis* (Linnaeus) 30; Linnet, *Carduelis cannabina cannabina* (Linnaeus) 16; Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs coelebs* Linnaeus 35; Great Tit, *Parus major major* Linnaeus 46; European Blackbird, *Turdus merula merula* Linnaeus 17; Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus ridibundus* Linnaeus 15. A Magpie, *Pica pica galliae* Kleinschmidt, banded 3 August 1940 was recovered at the banding locality (Turnhout) 17 October 1948. A Swift, *Apus apus apus* (Linnaeus), banded 26 May 1944 as an adult was recovered at the banding locality (Gaurain-Ramecroix) 8 August 1948. A Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos major anglicus* (Hartert), banded 3 June 1936 as nestling, was recovered at the banding locality (Vosselaer) in 1944. A Teal, *Anas crecca crecca* Linnaeus, was banded 1 June 1937 at Ossendrecht as young, and recovered in Ancône, Italy, 18 March 1948.—D.S.F.

3. Birds Banded in Foreign Countries and Recovered in Belgium. (Oiseaux bagués à l'étranger et retrouvés en Belgique.) Ch. Dupond. 1949. *Le Gerfaut*, 39(3): 157-164. This is a summary of 82 records of birds banded in foreign countries and recovered in Belgium. Most abundant are Starlings, *Sturnus*