

When one aluminum band is mounted above another, the top band acts as a hammer to shorten the under band and to spread the metal, producing a flange on the inside and on the outside of the pounded upper edge of the lower band. The resulting inward flange is thin and quite sharp, and tends to grip the tarsus progressively tighter as the hammering action of the upper band continues.

In the photograph the bands are arranged in sets. The lower band in each set was the lower band on the bird. The upper bands in sets no. 1 and no. 3 are shown with the striking edges downward to indicate the normal thickness of the metal. The upper band of set no. 2 has been turned to show that its lower edge has also been flanged to some extent, though not as severely as the top of the lower band. In each set of bands, the upper one was less flanged than the lower one.

Elimination of the use of two metal bands on the same leg will reduce available color code combinations. This suggests the desirability of returning to the use of the "wrap-type" plastic band, at least for use wherever two bands are needed on the same leg to regain the maximum number of color codes.

Every opportunity should be seized to remove or break up such pairs of metal bands. Where flanging has not yet taken place, the color band only may be removed; however, if flanging has occurred, both bands should be removed. It is urged that these cases be reported and that the offending bands be turned in.

27 Hayes Avenue, Lexington 73, Massachusetts.

GENERAL NOTES

John Beck the second American bird-bander.—Audubon is acknowledged as the first bird bander of America by his tying silver threads to the legs of nestling Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) at his home in Pennsylvania about 1803, and finding these marked birds the following spring. John Beck (1791-1873) of Lititz, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in August 1812 sewed a piece of chamois leather around the tarsus of a Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), and saw its return to its box early the following spring. Thus John Beck, the grandfather of Herbert H. Beck, Director of the Franklin and Marshall College Museum in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, deserves the recognition by ornithologists as the second bird bander of America, and with the second record of a migrating bird.—Harold B. Wood, 3016 North Second St., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Shrike Visits Banding Trap.—One of my traps at my home in Benicia, California, is what is ordinarily called a house trap. It is four feet square with a door for the operator to enter and is constructed of hardware cloth covering a redwood frame, and has two ground openings easily entered by birds but difficult of exit for most birds.

On July 20, 1952, as I approached this trap I found a state of avian excitement. In the cage were four linnets (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) and a California Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). Two of the linnets had already been killed by the shrike and the other two were in an exhausted condition. The two dead linnets had been lacerated about their heads. The two live ones recovered sufficiently to be banded and released, as was also the "butcherbird" with the hope that the latter would not return to my banding area.—Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California.

Green Frog catches young Phoebe.—On July 4, 1949, along the Huron River at Ann Arbor, Michigan, I banded six Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*), which were nearly ready to fledge. They would not, in fact, remain in the nest when replaced. I released them one by one and each bird flew to nearby trees. The

birds flew strongly forty to fifty yards, gained elevation, and all but one of them made a successful landing in a tree. One bird, however, did not obtain a perch and fell downward into the river only a foot or so from the bank. I ran to the place but did not at first find the bird. In a few seconds I saw one wing and the tail sticking out of the water, and then also saw a partially submerged Green Frog (*Rana clamitans*). The frog had succeeded in swallowing the head and neck of the bird. From the time that I released the Phoebe until I picked up the frog and dead bird, no more than 15 seconds had elapsed.—Andrew J. Berger, Department of Anatomy, East Medical Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Migratory Status of Breeding Song Sparrows at Baltimore, Maryland.—

From 1944 through 1951 I banded 98 Song Sparrows, *Melospiza melodia* (Wilson), at two places in northwest Baltimore—21 apparent adults, 3 immatures and 12 nestlings at Dickeyville, which is a tiny stream-side village just inside the city limits, surrounded by undeveloped land, and 42 apparent adults, 6 immatures and 14 nestlings in Howard Park, a neighborhood of detached homes about a mile inside the city line. I individually color-banded all of the adults and immatures, and a few of the nestlings.

At each location it proved that most of the breeding birds among my catches were summer residents, but a few were permanent residents. At Dickeyville, 4 males and 3 females were summer residents; 2 males were permanent residents. In Howard Park, 7 males and 6 females were summer residents; one male was a permanent resident. The breeding Song Sparrows at points in Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania have likewise been found to be of both these classes (Nice, *Trans. Linn. Soc. N.Y.*, 1937, 4: 31-32). At Columbus, Ohio, in different years, Nice (1937: 37-38) found from 35 to 61 percent of the breeding males, and 11 to 33 percent of the breeding females to be permanent residents; at Norristown, Pa., Middleton found permanent residents rare (*Bird-Banding*, 1938, 9: 99).

The records of my permanent residents are: at Dickeyville, one banded as a breeder on July 31, 1948, was present to April 26, 1950, when he was found dead, and one banded February 5, 1949, was present to at least March 5, 1950; in Howard Park, one banded December 13, 1950, was present through December 16, 1951, and from March 2 to 9, 1952. I cannot be certain that this last bird was absent during the winter of 1951-1952; if he was, he is the only Song Sparrow I have banded that has shown unstable migratory behavior such as Nice occasionally observed (1937: 33).

Summer resident males sometimes were, and sometimes were not, among the first Song Sparrows to arrive in my study areas in spring. Five that were trapped early enough to give some indication of arrival dates were banded February 5, March 8, 9, 21 and 25; four returns occurred January 30, March 6*, 7 and 16. Three summer resident females were banded March 24, 27 and 31, but I believed that the first two had been present from about March 6; one return was made March 28*. Return dates marked * may be a day or two late; the others are believed to be precise.

Eight summer resident males have last been seen August 6 to September 19. Seven such females have last been seen July 25 to September 14, and one other as late as October 21. Most of these dates seem so early that I suspect they were not really final, but merely the dates of movement from the vicinity of houses to a wilder habitat, where I failed to discover the birds. Such movement by two immatures was actually observed, and these birds were present to at least September 30 and October 4.

I have never seen in a later season or a later year any Song Sparrow that I banded as a spring transient. One fall transient male, banded October 27, 1946, when it possibly was an immature that I did not recognize as such, returned in 1947 and took up the territory about the trap, which in 1946 had been held by a different male; Nice (1937: 62) and Middleton (1938: 100) have reported similar returns by some immatures banded in late summer and fall. No Song Sparrow that I have banded has proved to be merely a winter resident, no nestling has been known to remain or return, and I have had no recoveries away from Baltimore.—Hervey Brackbill, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.