

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

Two articles in *Bird-Banding*, Jan. 1969, raise interesting, if minor, points.

1. Lloyd and Clench (p. 45) remark on the mutilation of bands by pliers. I solved this problem by filing the ridges down to virtual smoothness. Further, I handle and apply the hummingbird bands with embryological forceps. These have very narrow jaws tapering almost to a needle point. Closed, they serve to open the band.

2. Kirme's note (p. 51) on cnemidocoptiasis is informative but he might have looked a little further into the literature. I can find no precedent for calling *Turdus aurantiacus* the Golden Thrush. For more than 60 years it has borne the literary name: White-chinned Thrush. Its usual local name is Hopping Dick. See J. Bond, *Birds of the West Indies* (1961). In 1957 (*Bird-Banding* 38: 157) I noted four cases in this species which, on the basis of symptoms, were regarded as possibly this disease, as well as similar affection of three other species. It is good to have the symptomatic diagnosis confirmed.

Charles H. Blake

Hillsborough, N. C.

16 April 1969

May 29, 1969

Sir:

The note by Peter Kirmse (*Bird-Banding*, 40: 51-52, 1969) on the occurrence of Scaly-leg disease in tropical birds invites a response concerning Jamaican birds. For about five years Mrs. Audrey Downer and I have been studying Indigo Buntings on Jamaica, and in the course of banding operations at Montego Bay, we have had occasion to handle several hundred buntings and an assortment of other species. The latter have included not only local Jamaican birds but also a variety of North American migrants, chiefly warblers.

At Montego Bay Scaly-leg disease can be considered as generally quite common. Severe cases have been seen on the White-chinned Thrush (*Turdus aurantiacus*), Bananaquit (*Coereba floveola*) and the Yellow-shouldered Grassquit (*Loxipasser anozanthus*) and occasionally on the Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) and Black-faced Grassquit (*T. bicolor*). Some specimens of these species with the disease have been preserved as study skins and later deposited in various museums.

Interestingly enough, this disease was not seen by us on any of the buntings or other North American migrants despite the fact that these migrants fed and drank side by side with local birds having the disease.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Initial response to the new Manomet Bird Observatory (44 miles south of Boston, Mass.) has been heartening. Membership dues or contributions should be sent to Miss Barbara Treat, 720 Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, Mass. 02025. Inquiries about the Observatory, or offers of volunteer assistance, should be sent to the Director, Mrs. Paul T. Anderson, Wolf Trap Hill, R. F. D. No. 2, Winter St., Middleboro, Mass. 02346. As just one example of the contributions the Observatory has made even before its formal organization, note the Manomet data used in the Nisbet/Drury migration paper in this issue.

Stocks of the 18 types of mist nets sold by NEBBA continue generally good, despite sales running ahead of even last year's high level. Orders or inquiries should be directed to: Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford, Conn. 06117.