

big?" I would strongly suggest that using a slightly larger size is far better than smaller, so as to accommodate possible (and relatively rare) accumulating under the band of dirt or flaking scutes from the tarsus, ultimately leading to some constriction. Using the leg gauge one should use the widest part of the entire tarsus, as tarsi are oval, and also the width can vary along its length (Sakai, pers. comm.). If one finds that the size will just precisely fit, I would strongly consider using the next larger size, of course, within safety parameters.

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## Books

### **The Owls of Whitefish Point, a Bird-Banding Adventure**

by Susan H. Craig, Outskirts Press, ISBN 978-1-4787-2632-6, paperback. Reviewed by **Walter H. Sakai**.

This little book (88 pp) is an evening's reading and would be enjoyable to any bird bander, especially for those of you who have ever signed on to work for a season at a field station. Susan and her husband Pete applied for a two-month gig to capture and band owls at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Michigan, and this is their story.

To their surprise, they were offered the position. In hindsight, considering the rigors of banding at a remote site, at night, and in the snow, they were probably the only applicants. Then, unlike docile sparrows and warblers, owls bite and have sharp talons. And those who have banded owls and hawks know that we do not wear gloves while handling these birds. Susan describes catching and banding docile Boreal and Saw-whet owls, as well as aggressive Barred Owls, with bloodied fingers and hands covered with band-aids. And do not forget the Long-eared and Northern Hawk owls.

As I read this little book, I was fondly transported back to my stints in Tortuguero in Costa Rica, banding decidedly small Neotropical migrant and resident rain forest passerines. Banding during daylight hours. It was quite a bit warmer. The concerns were fighting off the mosquitoes and ants, and keeping the sweat out of my eyes.

At the end of the banding season, leave this little book at the field station for next year's banders to read.



Boreal Owl by George West