

adhering being cleaned off with benzine. It is suggested that the front be painted matt black and the back white or light grey, with the spacing of each pair of protrusions being written or put on with transfers on the back. This helps to ensure that guessed dimensions do not affect the reading.

In use, the tips of the bones are located with the bird held on its back, care being taken that pressure is not exerted on the sides of the abdomen. The pair on the gauge (or comparator) which have the same "feel" is then found, intermediates at the larger spacings being estimated. One finger is used for the closer spacings and two for the wider ones.

The dimensions given above have been found to suit the Black-shouldered Kite and other birds from the Pygmy Falcon to the Brown Snake-eagle. If a gauge is to be used for a particular species, it is suggested that a bird be checked first and dimensions chosen to simulate the feel of the bones as much as possible. Obviously, the pressure on the bird must be so light as to ensure that the spacing of the tips is not altered by the pressure of the finger, and that there is no damage to the egg which is likely to be felt occasionally.

Specific gauges for the Black-shouldered Kite may be obtained, free, from the author.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

As part of a broader study on the Spotted-back Weaver, Ploceus cucullatus I am collecting as much moult data together as possible.

If any ringer has any moult data available for this species, I should be most grateful to receive it.

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