

Work in Progress

East Coast Tern Watch

This summer volunteers from Nova Scotia to South Carolina will band young Common and Roseate Terns with a colored plastic band in addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band. The plastic band will be placed on the leg opposite the aluminum band. Each province and state will use a different color so that observers can recognize birds from different areas.

Through observations of these color banded birds we hope to gain information that might help answer the following questions. How far do birds banded from different areas along the coast, as well as inland, range from their breeding colonies during their post breeding dispersal? Do birds from different areas along the coast concentrate at particular places in the fall? How late are these species seen at different points along the coast?

We are also interested in gaining information on where birds from different areas winter, as well as details as to the movement of these birds on the wintering grounds. In the case of first year birds, we would like to follow their movements throughout the year and during their first two years of life.

The following areas, band colors, and participants are listed for the project this (1971) summer: *Nova Scotia*—yellow—I. A. McLaren; *Maine*—red and white horizontal stripe—Libby, Hatch, Gobeil; *Massachusetts*—orange—Howard;

Connecticut—green and white horizontal stripe—Proctor; *Lake Erie, N.Y.*—light blue—Clark; *Ontario, Canada*—red—Clark; *Michigan*—red and yellow horizontal stripe—Hodess; *W. Long Island, N.Y.*—royal blue—Heath, Gochfeld; *E. Long Island, N.Y.*—black and white horizontal stripe—Wilcox, Raynor; *Gardiner's Island, N.Y.*—red, white, and blue horizontal stripe—Duffy; *New Jersey*—green—Savell; *Maryland*—white—VanVelzen; *Virginia*—black—Byrd; *North Carolina*—orange and blue stripe—Beckett; *Great Gull Island, N.Y.*—color combinations using U.S.F. & W.S. band and three color bands (two bands on each leg).

Please watch for banded gulls and report observations, including date, location, and color of bands to the bander in your area or to:

Miss Helen Hays
Great Gull Island Project
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, N.Y. 10024

Also wanted is information on places where concentrations of Common and/or Roseate Terns can be seen in late summer and early fall. If you know of any such places, please send them to the above address. Any information supplied on color-banded terns or concentration points on the East Coast or elsewhere in eastern North America would be of great value. Success of the project depends in large part on the cooperation of field observers.