

brief note providing your name, mailing address, and specific information regarding your research interests, including subjects, species and locations. This will enable us to compile an address list and indicate members' fields of interest in future editions of the Bulletin.

We hope very much that you will wish to become a member of the North American section of the Wader Study Group, and that the Bulletin will provide an informative and interesting outlet for news, and articles about shorebird research and for communication between persons interested in shorebirds.

CORPORATION FINES \$500 FOR VIOLATION OF MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

The FMC Corporation, a pesticide manufacturer in Middleport, New York, was convicted on 18 counts for the deaths of 23 birds attracted to the company's 10-acre toxic waste-water pond. The corporation was fined \$100 per count, but the total fine was reduced to \$500 in light of the fact that FMC had spent \$4 million to alleviate the problem. Judge John T. Curtin of the U.S. District Court called the prosecution a public service and remarked on the importance of the case in the area of the environment and conservation.

The conviction resulted from a 3-month investigation with spot checks over a 2-year period by agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In May 1975 agents were advised that extensive bird mortalities were occurring in FMC's lagoon. Agents inspected the area and found 92 dead birds, as well as numerous other carcasses. It is estimated that during the spring migration of 1975, thousands of migratory birds, including sandpipers, Mourning Doves, Killdeer, Canada Geese, and various ducks were killed from the toxins in the waste water. In testimony at the trial it was learned that the toxin level was so high that a normal drink would probably be lethal to most birds, and that mere bathing in the pond would result in the de-oiling of feathers and absorption of poisons through the skin.

During the course of the investigation, agents worked continually with FMC on measures to alleviate the situation, including scare devices, armed guards, and netting. FMC finally eliminated the lagoon and installed a filtration system and a surface water treatment plant.

T.H.A.

NEW HAMPSHIRE BREEDING RECORD

A nest containing seven young Barn Owls was discovered on a platform inside a Hollis, New Hampshire, silo, thus possibly establishing the first confirmed breeding record for this species in that state. Since the silo was to be filled, another platform was constructed on the outside. The young birds were measured, banded, and moved to their new quarters; the adults resumed their feeding responsibilities that night.

THA