

or three nestings on the Vineyard at one time. In view of the queries raised from these three sets of data it seems obvious that no one person, however acrobatic and enthusiastic he may be, can possibly accumulate enough data for proven answers. Mr. Channing had a good point, but chose a poor species as illustration. Furthermore, the data here presented suggests answers to some of his queries, and raises more queries.

A solution to the problems of Barn Owl study would be for every bander to seize any opportunity to band Barn Owls. Also, and this is of utmost importance, all information gathered should be published. Inertia in publishing is surely the weak point in our procedures, far more so than the playing of ornithological golf.

As a matter of fact, the golfing bander isn't going to do much for his score by banding Barn Owls. Often it isn't possible, and seldom is it easy to band the young, let alone adults. But when there is a reasonable possibility of banding any of this species, it seems well worth while to do so, at least until we have obtained a reasonable amount of data. In order to answer more fully the questions Mr. Channing posed, and those raised in the course of this presentation, we need a wealth of further information, and especially we need to have it readily available.

313 Sharp Ave., Glenolden, Pa.



TITMOUSE POSTJUVENAL MOLT

By Constance Katholi

T. S. Roberts' Birds of Minnesota states on page 642 under "Key to Minnesota Titmice (Family Paridae)": "The adults (Titmice) have a single, annual, complete postnuptual molt. . .The postjuvinal molt is partial, wing-quills and tail being retained until the first postnuptual molt. . ."

On May 26, 1966 I banded 6 nestling Tufted Titmice and on August 23 I recaptured three of them. All three birds were in the process of molting the tail. On two birds the two central pairs of retrices were missing with the replacements visible in the sheaths. The third bird had only one old feather remaining, the new ones being at various stages of development. This is an obvious error in the Manual which has doubtless been recognized by experienced banders. Furthermore, it is apparent that the same sequence of molt occurs in Chickadees, despite the similar misinformation in the text. What I had hoped might be an additional aid to the ageing of these species at this time of year - through characteristics of molt - proved a failure.

930 Woodland Ave., S. Charleston, W. Va.