

bird was nearly frantic, flying back and fourth almost striking my hands while I was banding her, B160018. This pair were visitors at the station at intervals all summer, and they still come to my old station (although I have moved two and a half miles away), as reported by Miss Fanny Hoyt who now lives there. In June, 1932, the parents came with a full-grown young bird, which received two bands, 51464 and 51467. The male is still feeding at Miss Hoyt's station (April 10th) and he is now at least five years old.—MRS. MACK SHORT, Wayland, Michigan.

**A Pair of Tree Swallows Attempt to Raise Two Families in One Season.**—In *Bird-Banding*, Vol. III, No. 2, p. 42, in "Notes on the Breeding of the Tree Swallows," by O. L. Austin, Jr., and S. H. Low, it was stated that they found that "the only cases of second laying observed occurred when the eggs of the first clutch were either destroyed or deserted. In no instance did one adult rear two broods of young." I have found this to be true as a rule, but in the summer of 1932, at Pomfret, Connecticut, I had one exception: B88184 (♀), a return-3, was mated with C20163 (♂), a return-2. Of their five eggs only one egg hatched. The fledgling, F62172, left the nest June 24th. This nest was removed on June 30th, and immediately the Tree Swallows returned, built a second nest, laid a second clutch of four eggs, and on July 13th B88184 was taken on the nest incubating, but the mate had disappeared and the female also deserted the nest the third week in July.—MRS. KENNETH B. WETHERBEE.

**A Traveling Potter Trap.**—I have rigged a two-celled Potter trap to run on a rope cable from the feeding-platform near the ground to an upper window. A floor of wire screening, turned up about the back and sides of the trap for half an inch or so and projecting a couple of inches in front, holds in the bait and gives sufficient support to the doors when the trap is sprung to allow trap and captured birds to be drawn to the window.

My idea in setting it up was that trapped birds might be drawn in and released without the necessity of going out and disturbing a feeding flock. So far it has proved entirely successful. No bird has yet been lost in transit, and by careful handling the trap can not only be reset at the window and returned to its place without being sprung, but may be returned without frightening the other birds, individuals occasionally remaining to feed on the platform where it rests until fairly pushed off by the returning trap.—DOROTHY A. BALDWIN, Hardwick, Massachusetts.

**Common Tern Recovery in Ontario.**—Reports from banded terns of this species (*Sterna hirundo*) indicate that from their wintering grounds, the Caribbean Sea chiefly off the Venezuela coast, they return on their spring migration to nest in the colony in which they were reared or in a near-by breeding area—a north-and-south migration. The following record indicates that some do not follow the usual route, but break away and follow a more westerly course to new territory. Common Tern 676855, banded as an immature July 6, 1928, at Tern Island, Chatham, Massachusetts, was found dead on May 17, 1933, by John Ruttle at Point Clark, Lake Huron, Ontario between Goderich and Kincardine.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, Auburn-dale, Massachusetts.

**A Chickadee Changes Color of Tail.**—Chickadee F70803 banded September 24, 1932, repeated October 1st, 22d, and 30th and November 4th.

It was again taken November 24th with a nearly white tail. On September 24th the normal tail was 2.52 inches in length, and no change was noticed on the next dates when the bird repeated, but on November 24th, the tail being white and short, I examined it closely. The tail feathers perhaps should not be called pure white, but rather gray, as there was a little dark pigment in them. There were five of these light feathers on the right of the tail and four on the left. As I proceeded to measure them, I found the stumps of three old broken feathers on top of the light ones. The new feathers measured 2.05 inches, the three old feathers .90 of an inch.—Mrs. KENNETH B. WETHERBEE.

**Color Variability of the Rump Plumage of the Eastern Purple Finch.**—As an example of a not uncommon phenomenon it seems worth while to place on record some plumage-color variations of a female Eastern Purple Finch during a period of approximately two years. B69309 was banded at my Peterboro, New Hampshire, station on May 5, 1931, as a bird whose sex was unknown and of an undetermined age, although it was at least a year old and may have been much older. In my notes, Purple Finches not adult males are commonly indicated at the time of banding by the male and female sex symbols joined together. If such a bird's plumage varies from the normal, the unusual coloration will probably be on the rump, sometimes, but not always, with accompanying unusual colorations elsewhere, such as on the crown, throat, sides of breast, tips of greater coverts, etc. B69309 when banded presented nothing unusual in the above respects, excepting that the rump was especially of a yellowish-olive color, a quite common variation but not one indicative of sex, as shown by the fact that such birds may later take on the adult male or normal female plumage.

On the following July 3d the bird repeated, and it was inferred to be a female because the band was polished, no doubt by frequent contact with her eggs during incubation. She repeated again on the first day of the following October after the post-nuptial molt was over. A marked change had taken place: her rump feathers and upper tail coverts were now of a pale rosy color, and scattered feathers on the breast were of similar coloration, while as a whole she had assumed a general buffy cast.

In 1932 she was taken as a return-1 on April 18th. Her rump now had become distinctly more rosy, no doubt because of abrasion of the barbules. Her crown feathers now, viewed tangentially, were also seen to be pale rosy. On the following June 18th she repeated, her band being again well polished. Since adult plumage would have been assumed the previous fall, it was of course obvious that the bird was a female. During the summer and the following fall she repeated frequently up to August 10th, on which date no visible molt was under way.

This spring (1933) on April 5th she was recaptured as a return-2, but all the rosiness of the previous year had disappeared, and her rump had become conspicuously yellow, the entire bird retaining her faint buffy cast.

Since Jonathan Dwight, Robert Ridgway, and Witmer Stone<sup>1</sup> do not mention color-changes in any way similar to the above, or, indeed, mention the common variable coloration of the rump tract in young males or fe-

<sup>1</sup> See Dwight: *The Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York*, pp. 173 and 174; Ridgway: *Birds of North and Middle America*, Part 1, pp. 128 and 129; and Stone: *The Molting of Birds with Special Reference to the Plumages of the Smaller Land Birds of Eastern North America*, pp. 139 and 140.