

and, although the nests were broken up by the brown females and the first mates stayed about for a few days afterward, these males mated to the brown birds and settled close to the former nests. Two brown females laid their first eggs on the bare floor of boxes, with just a nest-edging of hay.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, East Westmoreland, New Hampshire.

Returning Chickadee Mates.—The warm weather has delayed the return of Chickadees this fall, but one pair, which reappeared at my station on October 26th, is of special interest. This pair, F23149 (male, banded January 17, 1932), and F31792 (female, banded October 24, 1932), part of whose history was given in a note in *Bird-Banding*, January, 1934, mated in the spring of 1933, having previously been together through the winter. That year their nest was not found, but as they were together on a feeding-shelf on May 10th, when the female begged, with fluttering wings, to be fed, and lunched there again in each other's company on July 9th, there was no doubt that they were a mated pair. Throughout last winter they were much together and this spring remated, raising two broods in the same hole in a birch stump, about three hundred and fifty yards south of my station.

Including their return together on October 26th, the male has been seen on nine of his visits for peanuts, on seven of which, and possibly also on the other two, he was accompanied by his mate.

The tendency of mates to keep together at other than the nesting-season was also noticed last fall. This might be supposed to result from traveling in the same flock, but the above pair is at present alone, except for one new Chickadee that attached itself to them early in the fall.

A second (probable) pair, L18935 (banded October 24, 1933) and H71312 (banded December 9, 1932), are also returns this fall. H71312 has been with its mate on eleven and possibly twelve visits out of fourteen, but L18935 has made seven visits alone (at least the other of the pair was not seen) or with other Chickadees, several of which are now flocking with these two.—DOROTHY A. BALDWIN, Hardwick, Massachusetts.

A Twelve-Year-Old Blue Jay Recaptured.—On the 17th of November, 1933, a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta c. cristata*) bearing band number 9612, was taken in a flat trap. This bird had been banded on January 2, 1922, by Mr. Aldred S. Warthin, Jr., at a station located about three hundred yards from the site of recapture. While the numbers were entirely legible, the band had worn thin and was therefore replaced by C333993. The bird has not been retaken since.

This indicates that Blue Jay 9612 was at least twelve and a half years old when it was retaken, more than two years older than the Wren-tit recently reported by E. L. Sumner, Sr., (*Condor*, 36, 1934, p. 170) as the oldest recorded wild passerine bird.—THOMAS H. WELLER, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

An Age Record of the Common Tern.—The following recovery is of interest because of the length of life of a Common Tern (*Sterna h. hirundo*) that carried band number 674003 from July 1, 1928, until it was reported killed on September 7, 1934.

The bird was banded as a juvenile on Tern Island, Chatham, Massachusetts, and was killed on the west coast of Puerto Rico at Cabo Rajo.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, Auburndale, Massachusetts.

A Downy Woodpecker with a Broken Bill.—The inbreeding male Northern Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*) banded A260655,¹ a permanent resident bird at our yard, coming to the food daily or nearly so over a

¹ See *Bird-Banding*, Vol. III, pp. 69, 70, 1932.