

cope with its guests at the table. As for the latter, their rôle in the above story is as illuminating to the naturalist as are the Robin-considerations involved.—C. BROOKE WORTH, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Department of Animal and Plant Pathology, Princeton, New Jersey.

An Eastern Snow Bunting in its Eighth Winter.—On February 22, 1934, I trapped and banded a Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*), at my bird banding station near McMillan, Mich., to which I gave band number L 73527. I have retaken the bird on March 7, 1934; January 13, February 3, 15, March 1, 4, 16, 1936; January 27, 29, 30, February 2, 16, March 5, 6, 1938; February 15, March 3, and 4, 1941.

This bird is now in its eighth winter, and in the belief that it might be the longest longevity of this species, I wrote the Fish and Wildlife Service at Washington, D. C., and Mr. F. C. Lincoln replied in a letter dated March 6, 1941, that "Examination of our other Snow Bunting returns shows that you are correct in assuming that yours is the best longevity record for that species." We are safe in noting this bird to now be in its eighth winter, and through my studies on the plumage of this species, I feel sure that it is at least in its ninth winter.

Through my studies, I have not yet found a Snow Bunting with the primary coverts mostly or nearly all black, the outer web of the greater coverts half or more black, nor the inner (9th) pair of primaries all white, and not more than half, if any of the secondaries all white, when retaken in a following winter after banding. With this bird on the date banded, there was light blackish on the end of all but the first pair of primary coverts; the inner pair of primaries and all secondaries were all white; there was no black on exposed parts of any greater coverts, and there was light rusty-like on the middle of outer web of the 2nd and 3rd pairs. The end of the middle and lesser coverts was light rusty-like. On its return date of January 13, 1936, there was a little black on the end of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th pairs of primary coverts; and thus, the end of the 7th, 8th and 9th pairs had become white. On the return date of January 27, 1938, the 6th pair of primary coverts had no black on the end. On the return date of February 15, 1941, I found that only the 4th pair of primary coverts had black on the end and that was only on the shaft; the black on the end of the 2nd and 3rd pairs was replaced with light rusty. The end of the middle and lesser coverts were rusty, and this color was extended to the other greater coverts, that is, on the outer web. The 8th right primary was all white.

Also from this bird, are a few notes on the moult, which may be of interest. These are: March 7, 1934. Some new feathers partly grown on chin and some new auriculars. March 16, 1936. Much new plumage partly grown on chin, throat, auriculars and both tibiae. March 5, 1938. Moulting on chin, throat, lores, malar region, auriculars and tibiae.

Up to this time, I have banded 916 Snow Buntings, and from these I have 918 repeat records, 91 returns, and 8 recoveries.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, R.F.D. No. 1, McMillan, Luce County, Michigan.