

GENERAL NOTES

Age record for the Arctic Tern.—June 22, 1946, a party from the Austin Ornithological Research Station trapped at Tern Island, Chatham, Massachusetts, Arctic Tern carrying band number A-335164. This bird was banded by this station at Pamet Point, Truro, Mass., June 25, 1929. It was retaken at Pamet Point June 25, 1936. Banded as an adult this bird is eighteen years old, possibly more, since it is unusual for Arctic Terns to breed the year subsequent to their hatching.—OLIVER L. AUSTIN, North Eastham, Mass.

Nighthawk Returns to School.—Female Eastern Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor minor* (Forster)) No. 44-201539 (cf. Bird-Banding Vol. XVII, No. 2, pp. 55-60) has returned to nest again on the roof of Weaver High School in Hartford, Connecticut. Again she has two eggs which she laid at least eighteen days earlier than last spring. This year's clutch was discovered on May 29; last year's second egg was laid on June 16 or 17. The two eggs again vary distinctly in weight and size. Here follows a comparison of the four eggs:

Date of observation	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)
June 29, 1945	6.77	28.2	21.8
June 29, 1945	5.32*	29.2	22.1
May 31, 1946	8.41	30.5	23.0
May 31, 1946	7.37	28.2	22.4

*This egg had been damaged and its contents were partly dried away.

The bird's behavior this year is distinctly similar to that revealed in last season's study at the same stage of her nesting period.

The preceding note was written after a visit to the nesting bird on June 8. Today, June 11, the roof was again visited. The bird and both eggs have vanished. It is conjecture, of course, but apparently the disappearance is a result of the brief, but violent storm with its rain, hail, and wind of near-hurricane velocity which visited Hartford on the night of June 9.

June 19 provided a last opportunity to check this bird. Extensive repairs to the roof are now in progress. Although workmen report having seen the bird frequently on the roof their persistent presence and the confusion which has accompanied their work there have thus far discouraged any further nesting activity by the nighthawk.—G. HAPGOOD PARKS, 99 Warrenton Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

An Interesting Scarlet Tanager Return. On August 10, 1941, a juvenile (and flightless) Scarlet Tanager was captured by me from its perch near the ground: discovered after an hours' search to locate its ventriloquistic call-note. (Premature departure from nest appears to be rather common in this species.) Put into a cell of a Potter Trap, its cry soon brought the mother down to be trapped in an adjoining cell; both were banded. A year later, August 14, 1932, the same performance was repeated in the same area beside my house. This time the mother proved to be the same banded mother of 1941 (39-59189). Questions are raised: In this species do females sometimes, or usually, return "to establish nest and feeding area"—a formula so confidently attributed to most male birds. And do the females commonly return to a previous year's site? . . . Of course it is well known that in the Scarlet Tanager both sexes do not migrate northward together, the males arriving here about seven to fourteen days earlier. Though I banded this mother's mate in 1942, unfortunately I did not trap her 1941 mate. At any rate, to go and return from Central America, coming back to a definite acre of ground in the wooded sections of New York State, is no more wonderful an achievement in females than in male Scarlet Tanagers.—RAYMOND TIFFT FULLER, Winterton, Sullivan Co., N. Y.