

from the lower edge of the base of the pyramid in order to keep the momentum from lifting the elevator out of the trap. It is not at all unusual to take as many as seven birds in one afternoon with this trap. (See figure 1.)

A modified kind of *tapa* or *churuco* could be made by using heavy gauge wire for the framework and covering it with screening. The framework would probably be unnecessary if $\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh, zinc-coated screening were used. Canaries might be utilized as bait birds, but this feature of the traps could easily be dispensed with. Most bird-banding enthusiasts can probably think of a number of ways to change the traps to adapt them to local conditions. It is hoped that these ingenious devices may find some place among the capturing equipment of bird-banding stations.

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GENERAL NOTES

Longevity record for the Common Tern.—June 24th, 1946, Common Tern carrying band number 550611 was trapped on a nest at Tern Island, Chatham, Cape Cod, Mass. Since this bird was an adult when banded by Charles B. Floyd at Tern Island, July 4th, 1927, it is at least twenty years old, possibly more. Eighteen years was our preceding record.—O. L. AUSTIN, Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Massachusetts.

The Return of Young Robins to their Birthplaces.—Donald S. Farner's article: "The Return of Robins to their Birthplaces," BIRD-BANDING 16: 81-99, July, 1945, presents a valuable discussion of the tendency of young Robins and other passerine birds to return to their birthplaces for future breeding. Dr. Farner points out that it has not been determined whether this tendency is associated with the birthplace itself or actually with the last place occupied prior to migration. He cites Nice and Hickey as presenting some evidence that the latter hypothesis is valid.

In 1930, I was attending the Winnwood School, Lake Grove, Long Island, New York, which is three or four miles north of Lake Ronkonkoma and about fifty miles east of New York City. One of my teachers found a pair of juvenile Robins (*Turdus m. migratorius*) on the ground, and asked me to try to raise them to prevent cats from killing them. One of the birds died that evening, but the other, a male, grew healthily. He had the freedom of my room, and was able to fly about in it by the end of May. He was completely tame, so much so that when I tried to release him outdoors he would not fly away, but returned to my shoulder. I decided to keep him to show to my mother, and in June we carried him in a cage to my home in Passaic, New Jersey, fourteen miles west of New York City. There I had him banded by a neighbor, and released him in our garden. At first, he would return to the house to be fed, hammering on the windows to attract notice; but in a few weeks he learned to forage for himself. He always flew to my shoulder when he saw me during the summer, but in September he disappeared, doubtless migrating south with the other Robins.

The next spring, I saw him frequently in Passaic, and on a few occasions he came to me and let me pick him up, although he was less tame than he had been.

He had a special chirp which he appeared to use only for my benefit. In the autumn he disappeared again. I began banding operations myself in Passaic in 1932, and caught this robin several times that year, although he was much wilder. My banding records are not now available to me, but my recollection is that I caught him again in 1933 and that I thought I recognized him in 1934.

This unintentional experiment suggests that the factor determining the return of young robins to their natal sites is basically the fact that their birthplaces are the places from which they leave for their first migration. Passaic is about seventy-five miles west of Lake Grove, which is probably farther than normal competition or other natural factors would force young birds to range from their birthplaces to find nesting sites. I wrote to Dr. Farnier about this incident, and it is at his suggestion that I am publishing this note.—FRED MALLERY PACKARD, National Parks Association, 1214 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Further Data on a One-Eyed Robin.—In BIRD-BANDING of January, 1946, (17(1): 38), an account appears of a one-eyed Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) that returned to my banding station for three seasons. He had been banded in October, 1941, in normal condition but returned in 1943 with the loss of his right eye. After occupying the garden for nesting, he disappeared in July, 1945, and I did not expect to see him again. But, on December 27, 1945, he and his mate of the previous summer reappeared at the banding station. They were recognized immediately by their colored bands and their habits.

During the winter of 1945-46, uncountable thousands of Robins occupied an immense roost in Nashville. During the day, they spread out in great flocks over the surrounding area and spent most of their time in the hackberry trees, consuming the abundant crop of fruit that had matured that year. Each time that raisins were placed on the feeding ledge and thrown to the driveway, all the feeding Robins scattered at the slam of the casement window, except One-Eye and the green-banded female. To them, the noise was a signal that a favorite food was available and they immediately flew to the house.

Although the pair had reappeared on the same day and used the same area they had occupied as nesting territory the previous summer, he spent most of his time on the portion to the west of the house and she used the part to the north. He made attempts to defend one hackberry tree (near the house), flying at the Robins that invaded it. There were fights over raisins between resident Mockingbirds and both One-Eye and the female. I saw two fights between the pair; on January 21, 1946, the fight was already in progress when observed but on January 25, One-Eye was the aggressor. He flew at her, she reiterated, then a prolonged fight ensued, but both remained to eat raisins after these encounters.

In late February, One-Eye was also spending considerable time on the north lawn as if he would claim spring territory as last year. On March 19, the pair fed together, but on the 21st, she was showing some dominance. While feeding, he warily grabbed a raisin and ran, with the female running at him, but he returned to feed with her. Unfortunately the very interesting observations ended on March 24, when the slightly mutilated body of One-Eye was found on the north lawn, the victim of a neighborhood dog. Sight identification was verified by his bands. The injured eye had dried and had sunk deeply into the socket. He had survived at least three full years after the loss of his right eye, nesting in summer, migrating two autumns when the other Robins left Nashville, and coming back to winter during the period of the large Robin roost here. Having hatched in 1941 or earlier, he was at least approximately five years old. His mate was not seen after his disappearance.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Graybar Lane, Nashville 4, Tennessee.

An Interesting Recovery of a Banded Gray Jay.—On 6 August, 1946, an adult and a young Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis griseus* Ridgway, were obtained on the summit of the Cascade Divide about one and one-eighth miles southwest of Annie Spring at about 6,250 feet. These birds were from a family group