

typical race or the western subspecies, *C. m. circumcinctus*, occurs there. At least the initial step toward the solution of this problem has now been made. It is also of considerable interest that a bird raised within 100 miles of the southern limit of its present breeding range should be recovered at the southern extremity of its winter range.—Chandler S. Robbins and Robert E. Stewart, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

Common Terns Nesting in Illinois.—For several years a small colony of Common Terns, *Sterna hirundo hirundo* (Linnaeus), have been making unsuccessful attempts to nest at Waukegan, Illinois, on the shore of Lake Michigan. As early as 1937, William I. Lyon banded a few young on the property of the Public Service Company. We returned to the nests two days later and found them deserted because the sand tracked up by dogs had apparently wrecked the nests and eggs, carrying off the young birds that we had banded. During the years of 1938-1939 and 1940 a few pair made attempts to nest on this site, a small mound of sand about eight feet above the water and about fifty feet back from the beach, in an area that is fenced off from the public. To my knowledge none of the young ever survived owing to the dogs and cats that were able to get to the grounds along the shore.

With the advent of the war this became restricted area and no attempt was made by anyone that I know of to do anything with the colony. During the war while on duty here with the Coast Guard I observed the adult birds carrying minnows into the site, so I am certain that they continued in their nesting attempts. The company guards on duty there told me that "Black-headed Gulls" would dive at them whenever they approached that piece of ground. This covers the years from 1941 to 1946. It is evident that there have been nests there each year since 1937.

This year I obtained a permit to enter this property and on June 9th, I found three nests with two eggs and one with three eggs, all being incubated. On June 15th, the nests were, except for one nest with two warm eggs, destroyed. The rest of the eggs were either broken or scattered from the nests. Tracks in the sand indicated dogs. However, I noticed several adult birds flying toward the property of the Johns Manville Corporation across the road, with minnows in their bills. Looking this area over with my glasses I discovered fifteen adults apparently on nests in a small area between the factory buildings and the lake shore. It consists of a low flat barren bit of dried mud, devoid of vegetation, except on the north and east sides which had a heavy growth of weeds. On the south is a railroad track and the west is bounded by a refuse dump.

Upon my return from my gull banding trip to the northern end of Lake Michigan, I obtained a permit to enter this property, and on June 28th I banded ten young terns there and one on the Public Service site. There were still many unhatched eggs in some of the nests. On July 4th I banded 21 more young birds and found several hiding in the weeds that had been banded June 28th. On July 15th one more was banded making a total of 33. All the young birds had disappeared, but one nest with three fresh eggs was lined with fresh grass and weeds, apparently a second attempt to nest.

I believe that many of the banded birds got into the air, as during the latter part of July and early August I observed several incidents of young terns flying with the adults, and attempts being made by the adults to feed them in the air. A failure of this attempt would result in the birds landing on the water, and after the transfer of the minnow they would take to the air again.

According to a report from the Fish and Wildlife Service this is the first record of Common Terns nesting in Illinois. I shall endeavor to check on this colony each year. H. E. McArthur, Waukegan, Illinois.

A Case of Polygamy in the American Redstart.—On June 22, 1947 I found a nest of the American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linnaeus), at Credit

Island, Scott County, Iowa. While I was examining the nest and the four nestlings which it contained I noticed that two females of this species showed great concern about my being by the nest. At first I thought that it was another female nesting nearby which had come over when she heard the calls of the other female. On June 30, 11 days later, I again visited the nest for banding purposes. On this visit the nest contained one cowbird *Molothrus ater* (Boddaert), and one redstart, both of which were ready to leave the nest. Again the two females were seen to feed both the parasitic cowbird and the redstart. Within the period of eleven days it would be impossible for a cowbird to be hatched and reared to the point of leaving the nest so it is my impression that this cowbird was reared in another nest nearby and because of some factor it deserted its foster home and in wandering around came upon this nest containing a nestling, merely moved into the nest, where it was fed by the two female redstarts. After both birds were banded the cowbird flew away to another tree while the redstart flew to the ground. When I was in the area of the nest the male redstart left though I did see him previously pay attention to both females. The redstart was banded no. 47-13001 and the cowbird no. 47-13002. This was the first time I had ever found a case of polygamy in the American Redstart or of a cowbird having two sets of foster parents in the nestling or fledgling stage.—James Hodges, 3132 Fair Ave., Davenport, Iowa.

RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Donald S. Farner and others

BANDING

1. The Tendency of Blackbird and Song-Thrush to Breed in their Birthplaces. Irene Werth. 1947. *British Birds*, 40(11):328-330. An analysis of 258 recoveries of Blackbirds, *Turdus merula merula* Linnaeus, banded as nestlings, and of 249 similarly banded and recovered Song Thrushes, *Turdus ericetorum ericetorum* Turton, show that in both species there is a tendency for an early dispersal of fledglings followed by a dispersal in winter among the older birds. This is stronger in the migratory Song Thrush than in the Blackbird. There is a greater tendency on the part of the Blackbird to remain in the vicinity of the breeding locality and also to return to the birthplace to breed. Among Song Thrushes recovered during the breeding season, 52 percent were at the birthplace where banded, 31 percent were within five miles, and 17 percent were more than five miles away. In the case of the Blackbird, 72 percent were recovered at the birthplace, 21 percent within five miles, and seven percent over five miles. Although no evaluation is made of the possible bias due to better chances of recovery at the banding place because of the activity of the bander, there is nevertheless clear cut evidence of a strong tendency in both species to return to the birthplace as breeding birds.—D. S. F.

2. The Ornithological Station at Ottenby, Sweden, its Establishment and Report for 1946. (Ottenby fågelstation, dess tillkomst och verksamhet år 1946.) Gustaf Danielsson, Carl Edeltam, and Gunnar Svårdson. 1947. *Vår Fågelvärld*, 6(1):38-51. Much of this paper describes the building and facilities of the new station at Ottenby, on the southern tip of the island Öland. This station has been established under the auspices of the Sveriges Ornitologiska Förening. Because of its favorable location many interesting data should come from the activities of this station. At present plans call for the station to be manned only from mid-July to mid-October. A table summarizes the birds