

A Twenty-two-year-old Caspian Tern.—A Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia* (Pallas), No. 565631, banded at Gravelly Gull Island, Michigan, by the late William I. Lyon on July 8, 1927, was found dying September 19, 1949, by Mr. William Rickgers in his cornfield at St. James, Beaver Island, Michigan. The band and report were sent in by Forest Fire Officer Karl Kuebler. Beaver Island is roughly 60 miles east of north from Gravelly Island. This tern was presumably banded as a nestling and was twenty-two years and two months old when it died. Another Caspian Tern, No. 378504, lived almost twenty-two years. It was banded at Little Hat Island, near St. James, Michigan, by Frederick C. Lincoln on July 19, 1925, and was found shot May 5, 1947, on the shore of Lake Michigan at Pentwater Beach, Michigan, by Elmer Sanford. Two other Caspian Terns, both banded by Mr. Lyon at Gravelly Island, lived for approximately twenty years each: No. 325242 banded July 21, 1925, was found dead April 21, 1945, near Green Bay, Wisconsin, by Earl G. Wright, and No. 565628 banded July 8, 1927, was shot June 7, 1947, at the State Fish Hatchery, Oden, Michigan.—Seth H. Low, Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland.

Unusual Display of Mourning Doves.—On May 3, 1949, in one of our local cemeteries I flushed a Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura* Linnaeus, of unknown sex from a nearby nest. The bird gave the usual warning cry and fluttered along the ground in the customary fashion which led me to the conclusion that it was a female. The bird continued the "broken wing" display for about twenty yards where it then remained stationary and fluttered its wings. A nearby dove flew over and attempted to copulate with this bird on the ground but apparently was unsuccessful in its attempt, and both birds flew away together. I then returned to the tree that contained the nest and found another bird incubating two eggs. This incident provokes a number of questions which must be left unanswered until further studies can be conducted. As a general rule, the Mourning Dove establishes and defends a territory such as the other land birds. Though I have never recorded a territorial dispute in this species I can determine the approximate size of the territory by observing the limits of the "courtship" flight of the bird. However, when I found this one bird by the nest I assumed it to be a female tending the nest, although I may be in error in such an assumption. It gave the usual injury display for a distance which seems limited to the female and then simply fluttered its wings in a vigorous manner which brought the second bird into the picture. I assumed that this second bird was a male because it attempted at once to copulate with the bird on the ground. The last act of the bird on the ground moving its wings vigorously resembled a great deal the display of the female when she is ready to copulate. Since this was near the peak of the breeding season the second bird must have received such a stimulus from the bird on the ground. I do not know if the second bird was mated or not. Then, too, there is the bird which was incubating when I returned to the nest which must be accounted for.—James Hodges, 324 West 31st Street, Davenport, Iowa.

Red-winged Blackbird Fourteen Years Old.—Immature male Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius p. phoeniceus* (Linnaeus), 35-218437, banded by the late Mr. Verdi Burtch at Branchport, New York, on October 3, 1935, was killed (probably shot) on November 29, 1949, at Belvidere, Perquimans County, North Carolina. The band was returned with the recovery report. This bird was, therefore, at least 14 years old when killed. This is the oldest age record on file; a machine check of the 3,713 completed return cards on file in the Bird-Banding Office does not reveal any other bird of this species older than ten years.—Seth H. Low, Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland.

An Improved Device for Applying Colored Bands.—Mr. B. M. Shaub has described in *Bird-Banding* (18: 155-156, October, 1947) a device for applying colored celluloid bands to birds' legs. It is made from a pointed dowel, about four inches long, which is cut with a groove into which the bird's leg is to be placed for about half its length; it is tapered to a point for the other half. Presumably this device is for applying one band at a time.