

**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.

In banding some Evening Grosbeaks with a similar device, I have found that when handling several birds at once, it is useful to have more than one opened band handy. The dowel which I use is a longer rod than Mr. Shaub's, tapered to a point at one end, and grooved at the other, but it also has a middle section with parallel sides so that several bands may be kept on the rod in addition to the one for the bird at hand. This untapered and ungrooved portion of the rod may be as long as two to three inches, making the overall length of the rod six or seven inches. The rod is a little unwieldy at first, but becomes a great timesaver with practice.

It is best not to allow celluloid bands to remain open on the rod more than a half-day or full day, since if left longer they are likely to lose their springiness.—George G. Loring, 38 Sea Street, Manchester, Massachusetts.

**Another "Black Mark" Against the Red Squirrel.**—On Wednesday, June 23, 1948, we arrived at our isolated cabin which sits very close to the edge of high tide in Millbridge, Maine. As we approached the cabin a Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia* (Linnaeus), flushed from the path just thirty-five feet from the back door. A brief search revealed its simple, but tidy, nest with four cream-colored, irregularly brown-spotted eggs, almost in the middle of the path. Through Friday and Saturday the bird flushed whenever we left the cabin, but she always returned to the nest after very brief absences. Red squirrels were about, but they paid no apparent attention to the bird nor she to them. In fact, on Saturday as she was returning to her nest we observed a red squirrel playing about on the beach very close to her and actually twice running in a circle around her. The bird and the squirrel approached the nest simultaneously and, as the squirrel jumped almost directly over the nest, the Sandpiper fluffed her feathers and raised her wings and tail in an attitude of protest. No further incident was observed that day, but early Sunday morning we discovered that one of the eggs was missing. About mid-morning the bird's complaining cries were heard from the vicinity of the nest and she was seen running about among the beach-pea vines nearby. Then a red squirrel ran from the nest with one of the eggs in its mouth. The contents of the egg spilled out over the rocks as he scampered away. A moment later my rifle spoke, but it was too late to save even the one remaining egg. During the remainder of Sunday morning the Sandpiper returned several times to the nest, but never once did she appear at ease. She pecked about in the vicinity of the nest crying almost constantly in her plaintive way, but she was always nervously on the move. With the sun still high in the sky that afternoon she flew away and was never again seen thereabouts. The lone egg lay in the nest for the next five weeks; then it, too, disappeared.—G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warren-ton Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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## BANDING

(See also 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 23.)

**1. The Pied Flycatcher. I. Ortstreue and Formation of Races.** (Der Trauerfliegenschnäpper. I. Ortstreue und Rassenbildung.) Lars von Haartman. 1949. *Acta Zoologica Fennica*, 56: 1-104. A very fine study of *Muscicapa hypoleuca* (Pallas) on about four square kilometers in southwestern Finland, some 3500 hours during eight years having been devoted to the project. "In order to investigate the natural history of a species, three things are most important: field glasses, colored rings, and industry." The birds were caught in the nest boxes. Of 187 adult males, 70 (37 percent) returned; of 177 adult females, 19 (11 percent) returned; of 851 nestlings, 9 (1 percent) returned. The author