

Some significant additional records have already been received from Evening Grosbeaks banded during the 1951-1952 flight, but since we have been referring in this note to birds banded prior to that flight it would seem inconsistent to report any of these new records at this time.—G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

#### A Pair of Mourning Doves Occupies Same Nest Two Successive Years.—

A survey of the literature indicates a lack of information pertaining to the mating habit of the Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura* Linnacus. The majority of the available evidence points toward some degree of monogamy in the mating behavior of this species. A notable exception is the following statement by Margaret Morse Nice (*Auk*, 39: 457-474, 1922): "I think we are on safe ground in assuming that when four eggs are found in one nest they are the product of two females. Whether such cases always or usually mean polygamy we have no means of knowing at present. . . . We have observed considerable lapses of fidelity of male doves to their mates."

The following observations suggest a monogamous mating habit in the Mourning Dove. On June 23, 1951, the female of a pair of Mourning Doves was caught in a nest trap on the Ohio State University Campus. This bird was banded with number 48-369048, and released. Two days later the male was caught in the same trap and given band number 48-369049. The nest and nesting platform were left in the tree, and during the second week of March, 1952, a pair of doves was using the same nest. On April 4, 1952, both adults were trapped, identified, and released. They were found to be the same birds which used this nest during 1951.

It would be interesting to know whether these birds were continuously together through the intervening winter, or whether they re-mated during the second breeding season as a result of both birds returning to the nesting territory of the previous year. A. Starker Leopold (*Wilson Bulletin*, 55: 151-154, 1943) reports some segregation of the sexes following the breeding season. He states, ". . . in addition to increasing gregariousness among the doves as fall progresses, there seems to be a partial segregation of adult males into small, closely united flocks." O. L. Austin, Jr. (*Bird-Banding*, 22: 149-174, 1951) says, "Site tenacity to the breeding grounds may . . . be considered a major behavior trait in the Mourning Dove."

The incident reported here may or may not represent normal behavior for the Mourning Dove. It may be that both birds returned to their former nesting territory, and re-mating and re-use of the previous year's nesting site occurred somewhat by chance.—Paul A. Stewart and James P. Mackey, Jr., Department of Zoology and Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

#### Eye-color in the Red-eyed Towhee.—

The eyes of four adult male Red-eyed Towhees from Mastic, and one from Garden City, Long Island, N. Y., June 2 to July 18, were all deep or dark red, two of the five brownish red, and two bright red. One of the bright red ones had a brownish red eye when taken August 25 two years later, but it seems unlikely that this was due to advancing season, for the two with brownish red were on June 2 and July 6, the two with bright red on July 15 and 18. A male with a brown eye September 23 was most likely a bird of the year.

The eye of the adult female can be like that of the male (deep, dark red in one on July 27), but seems to be more variable. It was dark red-brown in one June 13, bright brick red in another July 14.

Fully grown, independent young Towhees, still in streaky plumage, sometimes have conspicuously black and white tails, presumably males, others dark brown tails with less conspicuous white, presumably females. At Mastic July 5 to 20, 1952, eye-color of five such males and one female was recorded. A male July 5 had a reddish brown eye; three July 13 to 14 (one of which repeated July 20), eye with a broad yellowish brown margin. There were a male and female July 19, the former with a dark, slightly tawny brown eye, the female with the same, somewhat paler.

It is likely that three broods were involved, and that the eye-color of the young varies by brood. Some years ago I examined a good many young House Sparrows,