

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,

which showed more individual variation (in other characters) than the adults, and believe this was more or less by broods.—J. T. Nichols, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.

Eye Color in the Brown Thrasher.—Many bird-banders, no doubt, make careful note of the color of the "soft-parts" of birds they handle. What I have to offer will be familiar to many, likely but a fragment of what some could, and so far as I know have not, placed on record, which is regrettable.

The eye of adult Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) is yellow, occasionally orange. The variation in color is for the most part an individual matter. I have not differentiated the sexes, but thought that one season an individual with orange, was mated to another with deep orange-yellow eye, a close approximation at the limit of color variation. The former (No. 34-237848) was captured as an adult in four successive years, dates ranging from June 20 to August 21 in the first three, eye consistently orange. In the fourth year, July 3, its eye was noted as a little yellower, deep orange yellow, possibly because it was ageing. There is also probably little if any seasonal color change from April to August. My data suggest that there is a slight difference in eye-color by localities, at Garden City, and Mastic, Long Island, New York.

At Garden City I find record of the following individuals: with dull yellow eye, 1 (August 30); with yellow eye, 4 (April 29 to August 29); deep yellow eye, 8 (April 27 to August 5); orange-yellow to yellow-orange, 4 (May 8 to August 3, molting); orange, 1 (June 20 to August 21).

Comparable figures at Mastic are as follows: with dull yellow eye, 3 individuals (August 5 and 29); with yellow, 6 (August 21 to Sept. 10); strong, deep, and bright yellow, 3 (May 19, June 1, and August 29, respectively); orange-yellow, 1 (June 12 and July 3).

Young thrashers, when fully grown and independent, have a rather pale ashen or pearl grey eye. I have a record of eleven birds-of-the-year, at Garden City, and Mastic, with grey or greyish eye, from July 3 to September 19. As our thrashers sing little, when at all, after June 30, and presumably complete their nesting cycle early, it would seem to take the young some time to acquire a yellow eye. I have had no repeats over a sufficient period to estimate how long, probably because they are drifting rather than established in a given locality, as seems to be the rule with young birds. On the other hand, the grey eye becomes quickly tinged with yellow. One individual with an ashy grey eye on July 14, had a yellowish grey one on July 18. That of another became slightly pinkish between July 28 and August 4. Three of the said eleven had a yellowish grey, two a pale greyish yellow, one a pale pinkish grey eye when banded.

A bird with pale yellowish white eye on July 22 was presumably, one with the eye pale yellow on August 3, and another with it dull pale yellow on August 12, were most likely young. There is no proof that those with dull yellow eye classed above as adults, were so, but one or more looked and behaved like such. The dull yellow eye of one August 30, was not noticeably dull when it was taken again October 2.—J. T. Nichols, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York 24, N. Y.

The 1952 Returns of Chimney Swifts at Kent, Ohio.—During the spring and summer of 1952 a total of 40 banded Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) returned to the campus of Kent State University. They were present from April 20 until October 5, 1952, although they did not all arrive or depart at the same time. There were 13 males, 12 females, and 15 which have not yet had their sex determined. The number of returns from each year's banding was as follows: 1944 (4); 1945 (1); 1946 (1); 1947 (5); 1948 (2); 1949 (8); 1950 (7); 1951 (12).

Thirteen pairs nested in separate air shafts of four campus buildings. There were 86 available shafts, although nine of these were not very suitable. Those chosen were well spaced over the roof tops; no two were in juxtaposition. Six pairs returned to the same air shaft with the same mate as in the preceding year for another nesting season. Another pair from the previous year remained mated but moved into a different shaft for nesting in 1952. Four birds continued nesting in the same shaft as in 1951, but with a different mate. Two of these