

**Remains of banded birds found in Screech Owl pellets.**—There are many references to the food of Screech Owls (*Otus asio*), but it is rare, indeed, for one to be fortunate enough to find in the pellets of these owls the remains of birds which one has banded. Smith (1947. *Bird-Banding*, 18: 129) reported finding the remains of two Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) in a Screech Owl pellet.

On several occasions during the fall and winter of 1949-1950, I observed a Screech Owl perched at the entrance to a cavity about twenty feet above ground in a tree in the University Arboretum in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The contents of the pellets strewn at the base of the tree were predominantly skulls and other bones of *Microtus* sp.

Although I had not seen the owl for several months, I visited the tree again on April 20, 1950, and found a considerable collection of aged and disintegrating pellets. As before, most of them contained rodent bones. In two pellets, however, I found not only bird remains, but also colored and aluminum bands which were still in place on the tarsometatarsi. A check of my banding records revealed that the birds concerned were an adult Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) and an adult female Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*).

About three hundred yards from the owl's tree I had captured and color-banded the adult titmouse on May 22, 1949. At that time, the titmouse was brooding young several days old. I color-banded the five young titmice on June 2, and at least two of them left the nest that day.

The female Goldfinch, her mate, and four fully-feathered young I had color-banded on August 24, 1949. This nest was located about one hundred yards from the owl's tree.

Although there is no way of knowing when the titmouse and the Goldfinch were killed, it seems likely that the Goldfinch was taken in the fall of 1949, inasmuch as the Goldfinch is, in all probability, migratory in the Ann Arbor region. The breeding titmice are permanent residents. One interesting feature about this record seems to me to be that both birds taken were adults, not young birds. In the case of the titmice, it may be that the young had left the immediate area once they had become independent. One sees here the possibility for an interesting problem resulting from extensive banding in areas known to be inhabited by Screech Owls.—Andrew J. Berger, Department of Anatomy, East Medical Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Reaction of female Horned Larks to banded young.**—Several years ago Harvey B. Lovell reported in this journal (1945. *Bird-Banding*, 16: 144-145) an instance in which an adult Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) removed banded five-day-old young from the nest. Mr. Lovell had concluded earlier (1944. *Auk*, 61: 649) that an adult Prairie Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) had removed a banded six-day-old bird from its nest.

During 1950, in the vicinity of Ann Arbor, Michigan, I had the opportunity to observe the reactions of three female Horned Larks to banded young. On April 9, I found a nest containing two eggs at Willow Run Village. The eggs hatched April 11 or 12. I color-banded (orange above aluminum and blue above aluminum) the two young on April 19. A short time after I withdrew from the nest, the female returned and fed one of the young, after which she repeatedly picked at the aluminum band on "Orange." The female soon left the nest, but returned with food in about five minutes. After feeding one nestling the female picked at the same aluminum band, but not at the colored band, nor did she remove the young from the nest. The nest was empty on my next visit (April 22), but I found "Blue" about 95 yards from the nest. I was unable to find "Orange."

On April 20, I found a nest containing four young near the University Arboretum. Two days later the nest contained one nestling only, but I found two fledglings nearby. I banded the three young and replaced the youngest in the nest. The female lark fed this color-banded bird (white below aluminum), then picked it up by the aluminum band, flew eight yards and dropped it. She immediately picked up the nestling and flew an additional five yards before dropping it again. When the female flew off, I replaced "White" in the nest. The female fed the nestling several times, but did not attempt to remove it from the nest during the period of my observation. On April 23, however, I found "White" dead some

60 yards from the nest. The other two color-banded young were still in the vicinity of the nest.

At the University Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor, I found a nest with three eggs on May 2. The eggs hatched May 13 and 14. On May 21, I color-banded the three young (aluminum on the left leg and orange, white, and blue, respectively, on the right). The largest of the young, "Orange," left the nest after being banded. The female lark fed this bird out of the nest, then picked at the orange band for several seconds, foraged for food, returned to feed the young bird, and again picked at the colored band. "Orange" remained in the nest when replaced a second time. The following day I found "Orange" 46 yards from the nest and still being fed by the female; "White" and "Blue" were in the nest and were being fed by the male. The nest was plowed under on May 23, but I observed "Orange" and "Blue" being fed by both the male and female larks as late as June 4.—Andrew J. Berger, Department of Anatomy, East Medical Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**A Common Tern at Least 23 Years Old.**—July 6, 1952, a Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*, wearing band number A-335516 was found owl killed at Tern Island, Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where it had been banded as an adult July 26, 1929. Since less than two percent of this species breed when one year old and less than one-fourth before their third year, it is likely this tern was older than its known 23 years.—Oliver L. Austin, Sr., Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Cape Cod, Mass.

## RECENT LITERATURE

### BANDING

**1. Report on Bird-Ringing for 1951.** A. L. Thompson and E. P. Leach. 1952. *British Birds*, 45 (8): 265-277. This is the fifteenth report of the Bird-Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology. The total number of birds ringed from October 1950 to September 1951 was 85,743, of which 49,364 were trapped and 36,379 were nestlings. Most of the report is devoted to a "Selected List of Recoveries." Starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*, ringed in winter in Great Britain were recovered in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Holland. A young Goldfinch, *Carduelis c. britannica*, migrated to Spain, although the British race is regarded as mainly resident. Chaffinches, *Fringilla coelebs*, ringed in winter were taken in later autumns in Norway and Sweden. As to Pied Flycatchers, *Muscicapa hypoleuca*, "Return in subsequent summers to the place of birth or nesting has been shown in the following cases:—Of birds marked as young, seven in the second year, one in the second and third, three in the third, one in the fourth and one in the fourth and fifth. Of birds marked as adults, 26 (25 females, one male) in the second year, three in the second and third, one in the third." One bird was retaken in Portugal. Two Blackbirds, *Turdus merula*, moved 105 and 125 miles northwest during their first autumn or winter. A very remarkable longevity record is that of a Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, which showed "fidelity to the birthplace at the age of 16 years—the bird is stated to have been seen at the same spot in intermediate seasons." It was ringed as young June 13, 1935, in Norfolk and recovered nearby June 1, 1951. M. M. Nice.

**2. Second Progress Report: Bird Ringing 1950-1951.** E. H. Ashton. 1952. *The Ostrich*, 23 (1): 56-61. During the third year of banding by the South African Ornithological Society 4,031 bands were placed on 143 species, compared with 430 bands on 92 species during the first two years. Cattle Egrets, *Bubulcus ibis*, Cliff Swallows, *Petrochelidon spilodera*, and Cape Cormorants, *Phalacrocorax capensis*, are the most banded species. Tables summarize the number of each species banded in each year, and the details of all recoveries.—Hustace H. Poor.

**3. Ringing Operations. Summary for the Year Ended March 31, 1952.** J. M. Cunningham. 1952. *Notornis*, 5(1): 20-23. A table summarizes the birds banded in New Zealand (2797) and recovered (136) during 1951-52; also, the