to Dunnet. Dunnet wisely hastened to the spot and dug up the carcass, which by then was too decomposed to skin, but he was able to preserve it in alcohol. His description of it gave correctly all the specific characters differentiating *hirundo* from *paradisaea* and *dougalli*.

When Dunnet announced in the next *CSIRO Wildlife Research* (**1**(2): 134) the recovery at the same spot near Fremantle on 15 May 1956 of an Arctic Tern banded 5 July 1955 in the USSR on a western arm of the White Sea, only about 670 miles northeast of Marum, my latent doubts of the identity of the first recovery were rekindled. *S. paradisaea* evidently reaches western Australia fairly regularly. Though this was the first banding recovery, the species had been taken there several times previously, and it winters commonly in more southerly waters near by. As both *hirundo* and *paradisaea* nest in mixed colonies on the Baltic shores just as they do on our New England coast, the possibility of a misidentification by both the Swedish bander and Dunnet had to be taken into account, especially in view of the close similarity of the two species in juvenal dress and the difficulty of differentiating between them by one not fairly familiar with both species or with an adequate series of specimens at hand for comparison.

When writing my friend Dr. D. L. Serventy of CSIRO on other matters, I took the liberty of mentioning my doubts of the Common Tern recovery, and suggesting that he check the specimen's identity. Instead he "passed the buck" back to me by notifying Dr. W. D. L. Ride, director of the Western Australian Museum where Dunnet had deposited the specimen, who in turn most generously forwarded me the specimen by air mail. It arrived in excellent shape.

Though its tarsus and bill measurements and the color pattern of the inner vanes of the primaries showed it to be *hirundo*, to make sure I took the bird to Washington and checked it against the National Museum series of immature birds of both species. This left no doubt of its identity. While the very slight subspecific characters differentiating the races are seldom demonstrable in an immature specimen, particularly one in pickle, the bird is unquestionably *S. hirundo* and, from its birthplace attested by the band it bore, ostensibly *S. h. hirundo*.

So, thanks to Dunnet's foresight and diligence in tracking down and preserving the specimen when the band was reported, even before he knew of its importance, there is no doubt of the validity of this remarkable record. One wonders now of its significance. For one thing it suggests the possibility of wide mixing of population stocks, particularly among seabirds, despite their demonstrated site adherence, and suggests the advisability of re-examining the slight morphological characters that differentiate the races of *Sterna hirundo*, among others. For another it suggests that Dr. Phillips *might* have been correct in his original identification of that old record. Unfortunately, we'll never know.

The Australian recovery is indeed extraordinary, but by this time we should be astonished at nothing. As the late Professor Peter Sushkin was fond of remarking when confronted with startling records of strays far from their normal habitats, "After all, what is so remarkable about it? Birds have wings, and this just shows they sometimes use them!"—O. L. Austin, Jr., Florida State Museum, Gainesville, Fla.

Banded Mourning Dove recovered in South America.—Apparently the only known record of the Mourning Dove *(Zenaidura macroura)* migrating to South America is a recent recovery of a banded dove. It was banded in northern Iowa at Wallingford, Emmet County as a nestling on June 1, 1956 by William Brabham, banding under my permit authority. Under date of May 4, 1957, a letter from Alberto Montoya to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that band number 573-45102 was taken from a bird killed today [May 4] at a laguna situated 20 kilometers south of the city of Cartago, Valle, Colombia. The place of recovery is approximately 325 miles north of the equator at 4°34′ N. Lat. and 75°53′ W. Long. This is over 2700 miles as the crow flies from the place of banding and is one of the longest journeys recorded for the species.

It appears from the 5th edition of the A.O.U. check list that this is the first record for the species in South America, though it is known to winter south to western Panama. In time additional recoveries from the cooperative dove nestling banding program should give more exact information on the extent of the migration south of the border. In the first year (1956) of intensive nestling banding, some 30,000 were banded through the cooperation of the volunteer banders, state game

departments, universities, and this Service.—Harry T. Maltby, Game Management Agent, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3055 N. E. Davis, Portland 15, Oregon.

Scarlet Tanager Nine Years Old.—A Scarlet Tanager *(Piranga olivacea)*, 40-158464, banded as an adult male on September 28, 1948 at Norristown, Penna., was found dead on August 8, 1956 at Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey (near Boonton) by Mrs. Ruth Floyd. It was thus at least nine years old.—Raymond J. Middleton, 131 N. Whitehall Road, Norristown, Penna.

Spring Migration of Blue Jays.—A Blue Jay *(Cyanocitta cristata)*, 543-54682, banded as an adult on April 30, 1957 at Norristown, Penna., was killed as it flew into a car at Baxter State Park (which surrounds Mt. Katahdin), near Millinocket, Maine on June 30, 1957 (reported by Mr. Myrle J. Scott).

Each spring, around the first week in May, we have an influx of new Blue Jays. These are apparently migrating, as those we trap at this period are all new birds which move on, as in a few days our Blue Jay population is back to normal. Though a resident species in much of its range, there is considerable movement within that range.

A Blue Jay banded at Norristown on May 10, 1946, 37-342498, was retrapped 12 days later by Jesse Miller at New Hyde Park, Long Island, N. Y.—Raymond J. Middleton, 131 N. Whitehall Road, Norristown, Penna.

Random Notes on the Blue Jay.—Receipt of Mr. Middleton's general note (see above) led me to look at my own data, and at some of the more recent papers on the migration of the Blue Jay *(Cyanocitta cristata)*. Field observers have long recognized that there is a widespread southern movement in fall, and a less conspicuous flight in spring (Brown, Lewis, Tyler). A number of banding stations (for example, Dexter, Gill) have obtained similar evidence.

The most striking example of the spring movement in the records of our banding station in West Hartford is for 1955. Between May 6 and 8, we banded 38 Blue Jays, and 15 more by the 19th, for a total of 53, compared to 24 in all of 1954, and 28 in all of 1956. Of these 53, 4 were retaken in 1956 or 1957, 1 was retaken in the fall of 1955, and 1 in July. In addition, on May 8, 1955 we took 2 birds banded in 1954, and another on the 12th; none of these had been taken since at least September of 1954. While these figures suggest that the flight of May, 1955 was not wholly made up of migrants, they do indicate that the birds were largely migrants. While 5 out of 53 were taken in a later year, we have taken 5 Blue Jays in a later year out of only 12 banded between early September and early November, 1954, with only a slightly longer lapse of time for the 1954 group.

Unfortunately, we have not obtained any estimate of age of Blue Jays banded in spring. The most striking character of the immature bird appears to be the color of the inside of the bill (Nichols), which has lost its value long before May. We do not have many records showing date of change of color, but three may be of interest: (1) an immature banded in July, next taken the following February, with bill all black; (2) an immature banded in July, next taken the following October 12, with bill entirely black; (3) a bird judged to be an immature when first taken, on December 10, because of some white near the base of the bill (inside), but all black when taken the following March 31. These cases, together with the black bill color of most Jays taken in early spring, suggest that birds showing white between October and February are less than a year old, but that birds showing all black may be either adult or immature. Incidentally, even Blue Jays several years old may show a light area at the extreme tip (1 to 2 mm.) of each mandible. Adults may also keep traces of white near the base of the upper mandible, inside.

We have not tried to indicate age of these spring birds by plumage, although young jays a few weeks out of the nest are obvious. Pitelka (1946) considered immature birds fairly easy to tell by plumage in the spring, but Tyler (p. 39) considered the first winter plumage "hardly distinguishable from that of the adult."

The thinness of bands on four 1954 Blue Jays retaken in October, 1957 leads me to feel it is desirable to reband this species (on the other leg, without removing the original band) after three years. I hope to develop some data on just how much longer these thin bands last; one was almost precisely the thickness of a size zero band; none had worn unevenly (as bands on Bronzed Grackles may do), and all were highly legible.