

four species nesting together. A recent case involving three species was published in *The Auk* by Watson (80: 377-378, 1963). In the summer of 1963, a similar case came to my attention.

In the front yard of my next door neighbor, Robert S. Barnes, at 1226 Fairview Dr. in Kent, Ohio, three species of birds nested together in the same tree during the summer of 1963. The tree is an English Hawthorn, close to the house, and not over 30 ft. tall. Near the top nested a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). Some 10 feet lower was a nest of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Some 9 feet toward the north and somewhat lower in elevation from the grosbeak nest, a pair of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) nested. The Rose-breasted Grosbeaks soon established dominance over the others, but nesting was completed successfully by all three species with reasonable harmony in spite of their close proximity and the dominance of one species over two others that usually are aggressive themselves.—Ralph W. Dexter, Department of Biological Science, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

Some Mammal Predators in a Colony of Common Terns.—On 7 June 1955 while banding several hundred downy Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) at Metropolitan Beach, Lake St. Clair, Macomb County, Michigan, I discovered several dead, partially devoured adults and downy young. At about the same time Mr. William B. Stapp brought to me an extremely large Norway Rat, (*Rattus norvegicus*). This rat was still alive but nearly every portion of its body was covered with wounds, its eyes were missing and the skin from behind the shoulders to the end of the nose had been removed. The condition of the animal was obviously the result of pecking and scalping by the adult terns. Experimentally, the rat was released in the thickest portion of the tern colony. Immediately it was viciously attacked by no less than twenty-five adult terns.

It was apparent that this was the creature responsible for at least some of the predation of young and adult terns and its condition obviously was due to attacks by these birds. The adult terns, incubating and brooding at night, would have been largely as helpless as the young before the attacks of this mammal.

During the next breeding season of 1956, dead young and adults were again discovered in the same colony and a predator, a three-quarter grown opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), was discovered in a hollow willow at the edge of the colony. This animal showed no signs of wounds, probably because its depredations were accomplished only at night while those of the common rat were both nocturnal and diurnal.

As those who band them know, common terns are able to inflict painful wounds on even a human being. My practice is to wear a hard-topped helmet when working in tern colonies to avoid the plummet-like diving impact of these birds.

Other mammal predators on mainland and sometimes island common tern colonies are minks, weasels, foxes, skunks and raccoons. Fortunately, most tern colonies are located on sandspits or island areas which are comparatively free from most animal predation. Apparently the concerted attacks of these birds on an animal even the size of a fox or skunk can be very effective during daylight hours.—Walter P. Nickell, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Rough-winged Swallow Recovered in Bank Swallow Colony.—On 24 June 1959 I banded a brood of seven Rough-Winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) in a drain tile at Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Oakland County, Michigan (latitude 42°30' longitude 83°10'). This drain tile was in a stone wall five feet above the ground level. The band numbers of these seven birds were 61-45592 through 61-45598. On 16 June 1961 one of these birds, band number 61-45593, was netted at a colony of Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) at Calcite, Rogers City, Presque Isle County, Michigan (latitude 45°30' longitude 83°50') about 250 miles to the north of the point of banding. The bank swallow colony was in the perpendicular face of a pile of finely-crushed limestone where I had been netting and banding bank swallows for four years. I believe that this bird was nesting in an old bank swallow tunnel as this colony had been occupied by bank swallows for several years. This is the second time I have netted rough-winged swallows in bank swallow colonies. On 13 July 1961 two adults and two flying immature

rough-winged swallows flew out of the same tunnel to the inside of a mist net near Union Lake, Oakland County, Michigan. This was a positive identification as I was still adjusting the net as the four birds flew out of a single tunnel and became pocketed.—Walter P. Nickell, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Returns on Aged Cardinal.—On 17 April 1934 Mr. Victor H. Cahalane, director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, banded a female Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) near the museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. This bird returned to the same banding traps eight times in more than ten years. On three of these eight returns she was accompanied by three different unbanded males. On four occasions she was captured alone and on one, she was captured with the same male which had been her companion of about a year before. On her last appearance 15 November 1944, she was at least 11 1/2 years old. This may be the second oldest cardinal recorded. Frederick C. Lincoln in *Migration of American Birds*, 1939 (p. 138) lists a cardinal fully thirteen years old when last seen. Two others were ten and nine years old respectively.

Band Number: 34-206915

Date Banded: 17 April 1934

<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>With Male</i>	<i>Alone</i>
11 May 1937	36-210498	
30 April 1939		X
12 May 1939	37-164915	
11 April 1940	37-210450	
30 April 1941	37-210450	
26 December 1941		X
18 November 1943		X
15 November 1944		X

—Walter P. Nickell, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Nine-year-old Chickadee.—On July 17, 1954, a Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) was given band number 22-52697 at my station here in Groton, Mass. It has returned every year, except 1962, since then, the last date being October, 1963. Thus this little fellow must be at least nine years and four months old, which I think must be a pretty good age record for a chickadee.—William P. Wharton, Groton, Mass. *Ed. note:* this is the oldest bird of this species I know of. One which reached 9 years, 1 month and 14 days is reported in *The Ring*, 34: 180; one of 8 years and 4 months in *EBBA News* for October, 1945; and one of 7 years and 8 months in *Bird-Banding*, 21: 17. Has any reader an older Chickadee?

A Local Population of Blue Jays in Connecticut.—Miss Nunneley's paper (in this issue) has prompted a look at my own banding of Blue Jays in West Hartford, Conn. In the period from May, 1954, through March, 1963, 406 were banded. While this sample has the advantage of a longer time span than the Granby sample discussed by Miss Nunneley, the total number of birds is less. The birds also represent much more erratic banding, often with no jays banded for months on end. Most of my jay banding is a byproduct of something else, such as the banding of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and Common Grackles, with a large battery of single-cell traps. These traps are often idle from August to late fall, and at other times may be idle because of business or other trips, illness, or the pressure of other work. This illustrates how even at stations with fairly substantial numbers banded overall, it may be dangerous to use the fluctuations in even a fairly stable species as evidence of an actual fluctuation in the population. For reasons outlined by Miss Nunneley, the Blue Jay is not as simple a species to pin down status changes for as it may first appear. Any discussion of the problem, such as her division of records by season, necessarily involves some assumptions, and some rather arbitrary divisions. Trying to get around these problems completely by studying a small population intensively breaks