Thomas S. Roberts reported almost identical flight behavior in the Franklin's Gull (*L. pipixcan*) in Minnesota (in Bent, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 113: 174). The Minnesota flights took place between 9:00 A. M. and 10:00 A. M. on 5 October, and involved several gyrating flocks simultaneously. Otherwise, Roberts's description is similar to those presented here for the Laughing Gull.

I have not been able to locate reports of this flight behavior in other species of *Larus*. It is interesting to note this similarity of behavior in *L. atricilla* and *L. pipixcan*, two species which are considered to be very closely related. I thank B. G. Murray, Jr., for helpful suggestions during the preparation of this note.—Robert C. Frohling, Deerfield, Illinois.

Twig in Abdomen of a Blackpoll Warbler.—On 29 September 1965, an unusual Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) was captured and banded at Round Hill, Sudbury, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. The bird was judged to be an adult male by skull ossification and plumage and weighed 11.7 grams, with a wing length (chord) of 75 mm. It appeared normal except for a small twig (1 mm. diameter; 25 mm. long) impaled through the skin of its lower abdomen. While the center of the twig was subcutaneous, both ends protruded above the skin, like a needle stitched through cloth. Although the puncture wounds had healed, the twig was easily removed by clipping off one end close to the body and pulling the other out from under the skin.

The literature contains numerous records of diverse traumata encountered by small birds but this curious form of injury has apparently not been reported. Michener and Michener (*Condor* **38:** 102-109. 1936) state that among the 30,000 passerines they examined, injuries of the sides and abdomen were rarely seen, probably because of their usually fatal outcome.—Deborah V. Howard, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773.

Recovered health of a Screech Owl.—On 8 February, 1966, I got a phone call from a neighbor who asked if I was interested in a screech owl (*Otus asio*). I retrieved the owl which had been caught in the neighbor's garage. It seemed to be weak although its behaviour was not markedly different from the few screech owls I have handled. The principal difference was that when it closed its claws on my hand, they did not penetrate the flesh.

On close examination of the owl I found a band. Reference to my files indcated that I had caught the same owl in mist nets on 1 October 1957 and again in the bell tower of a nearby building on 8 February, 1958. I had weighed the owl in 1958 and was glad that I had for it gave me some perspective on the state of health of the bird. In 1958 the owl had weighed 170 grams. On the eighth of February it weighed 153.4 grams. I was not sure what had caused the loss of weight. There had been a lot of snow on the ground for the weeks preceding the capture.

I began to force feed the owl with kidney. For five days the owl retained all I fed it and gained about 15 grams. Then it began to reject the food and its weight dropped. I switched its diet to liver. The owl continued to regurgitate the food but began to pick up some of what it threw up, some time later.

After consulting with local veterinarians, I began giving the owl pteramycin. I squirted one gram into the back of the owl's mouth with a hypodermic syringe each morning. I discontinued force feeding and left strips of liver in a dish in the owl's cage.

In the next few days the owl showed a dramatic change. It became lively in the cage, especially at night. Its grip improved until the last three days of its captivity when its claws easily penetrated my skin. It was able to fly very well late in its convalescence (on the first day the bird had lurched off my desk and glided to the floor without any effort to fly).

On 24 February I released the owl. It weighed 193.4 grams.—Peter Rhoades Mott, Middlesex School, Concord, Mass.

A Method for Trapping Cormorants.—In 1965, while studying the social behavior of Pelagic Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*), I devised a way to capture these cliff-nesting birds for color-ringing. I used single spring Oneida Victor No. 1 steel traps with plain jaws. The jaws were padded with a one-half-inch-thick wrapping of masking tape to avoid injuring trapped birds. A length of strong cord tied to the spring of each trap was used to anchor the trap to a stone or other heavy or stationary object. One to three traps were set on the edge of the

nest opposite the cliff face to necessitate their being crossed by a bird returning to its nest.

Traps can be lowered, by means of the anchoring cord, to otherwise inaccessible nests on cliff ledges. A piece of tape extending from the base of the trap to the lower edge of the free jaw keeps that jaw open as the trap is lowered onto a nest. A trapped bird is retrieved by pulling in the anchoring cord. Gloves should be worn to avoid bites and scratches while handling birds. Set traps should not be left unattended, because a struggling bird might seriously injure itself.

Using the method described, I trapped and banded 19 nesting Pelagic Cormorants. None of these was injured or deserted its nest. The same traps were used successfully to capture Pigeon Guillemots (*Cepphus columba*) and Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*) for banding.

I thank Robert I. Bowman for critically reading the manuscript.—Richard R. Tenaza, Department of Biology, San Francisco State College, San Francisco, California.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

(See also 22, 24, 31)

1. Annual Report for 1961 of the Swedish Bird-Ringing Office. Sten Osterlöf. 1965. *Vår Fågelvärld,* **24:** 335-400. (Swedish summary.) The number of banders increased from 360 to 420 and the total banded birds from 80,411 to 134,766. Lists of 233 species of birds banded and of 1,526 recoveries of 130 species banded in Sweden as well as a map showing some of the most remarkable recoveries complete the report. A Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) emerges as the oldest bird, 18 years, and two Spotted Flycatchers (*Muscicapa striata*) reached seven and eight years.—Louise de K. Lawrence.

2. Recoveries of Swallows Ringed in Britain and Ireland. Peter Davis. *Bird Study,* **12**(3): 151-169. Excluding birds which moved less than five miles, 587 recoveries of British Barn Swallows are analysed. Between July and September, juveniles disperse in all directions for distances of up to 50 miles from their birth-places (rarely as much as 120 miles). Adults apparently do not move more than about ten miles from their nesting-places at this time. The autumn departure from the British Isles is to the S.S.E. into France; then most birds continue in the same direction across the Mediterranean Sea and Sahara Desert to Nigeria and the Congo. (Davis suggests that "many" birds change directions to S.S.W. while in France, but in fact the recoveries involved are very few in number, and are better interpreted as stragglers.) Of 59 mid-winter recoveries (December to February), all but five were in the eastern part of the Union of South Africa, 6,000 miles from the breeding-area. The few spring recoveries are in the same general areas as the autumn recoveries, but there is evidence that some birds fly farther to the east in Europe and enter the British Isles from the southeast. Adults are extremely faithful to their breeding-places in subsequent years, but young birds scatter more widely, and have been found breeding as far as 225 miles from their birth-places. Davis did not calculate mortality rates but from the data he quotes the average mortality rate appears to be about 73% per year; one exceptional bird was sixteen years old.—I. C. T. Nisbet.

3. Recoveries Report Number 5/6: Ringing Scheme of the Spanish Ornithological Society. (Capturas de aves anilladas en España: informe N.° 5/6 (1961-1962)). Bernis, F., M. Lalanda, and F. Leon. 1963. *Ardeola,* **9** (part 1): 21-51. This report, covering the years 1961 and 1962, lists both long-distance and short-distance recoveries of birds banded in Spain. Long-distance recoveries are given in detail—date and place of banding and recovery. Some interesting recoveries are—*Ciconia ciconia* recovered in Nigeria, Senegal, and Mali; *Carduelis carduelis* in Italy; *Sturnus vulgaris* in Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. —David W. Johnston.