Abnormal Retention of Juvenal Feathers by a Catbird.—The juvenal plumage of the Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) closely resembles the definitive "adult" plumage in color and pattern. The most obvious characteristic of the juvenal plumage is the fluffy texture of the individual body feathers, typical of most passerines at this stage. The fluffy or downy appearance is caused by the lack of interlocking of barbules on adjacent barbs, the barbs themselves being rather widely spaced. In the Catbird, this downy texture is especially noticeable on the under tail coverts, which are also much paler than the rich reddish brown of later plumages.

On 6 August 1967, we netted several Catbirds at our banding station at Powdermill Nature Reserve, near Rector, Pennsylvania. One of these was thought, after a first glance at its under tail coverts, to be a young bird. Further examination showed, however, that it was a one-year-old bird (SY in the new Banding Office age terminology). Its cranium was fully ossified, it had dark brown rather than gray irides, its mouth lining was completely black, and (the strongest evidence of all) it had a well developed incubation patch. Our erroneous initial assessment of this bird's age was understandable when we discovered that it had retained the under tail coverts of its juvenal plumage, presumably since having attained them about a year earlier. Examination with a 5x hand lens sufficed to show that the feathers of the crissum had the structure of the true juvenal plumage, and were not simply excessively worn and faded feathers of the "adult" (= in this case, first basic) plumage. The under tail coverts of another adult Catbird, captured at the same time, were available for comparison under the lens.

At the time of the first prebasic ("post-juvenal") molt, Catbirds normally replace all body feathers, retaining only the flight feathers of wing and tail. Birds of this age class (HY in the fall, SY in the spring and summer until the next molt) can usually be recognized as such, especially if older birds are available for direct comparison. The juvenal rectrices are narrower and tend to be more pointed than those of later plumages, and by late spring and summer are usually more badly worn than the rectrices of older birds. The remiges, too, tend to be worn, and are distinctly brownish rather than grayish on the inner webs.

Neither of us recalls having handled another Catbird exhibiting such a retention of juvenal feathers, nor was any such phenomenon apparent in the Carnegie Museum series of approximately 80 specimens.

The Catbird described in this note was released, bearing band no 69-18349.—Kenneth C. Parkes, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213, and Robert C. Leberman, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector, Pa. 15677.

Tree Sparrow Killed by Gray Squirrel.—As I watched from my study window the morning of 19 February 1967, I saw the door shut behind a Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*) as it entered a four-cell potter trap. A moment later, a Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensus*) climbed up the pole to the platform, on which the cage was placed, and entered a cell adjoining that containing the sparrow and began to eat seeds.

Because the sparrow seemed agitated, I hurried from my desk, down the stairs and ran to the cage. During my approximately 3-4 minute trip, the squirrel had entered the sparrow's cell. As I approached, it took the sparrow's head in its mouth, jumped to the ground and ran through the snow to the base of a tree about 15 ft. away from me (and the trap). It bit the sparrow repeatedly and appeared to be eating. After approximately six to ten minutes, the squirrel left the sparrow on the snow and unhurriedly ascended a tree.

Close inspection of the Tree Sparrow showed the skull fractured in several places, exposing the bleeding brain tissue. The right leg was broken and almost all the flesh had been stripped from the tibia. No other part of the bird seemed injured.

This is the second observation of Gray Squirrel predation in my back yard (Prescott, *Bird-Banding*, **38:** 152, 1967). In the former instance, the skull of a Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) had been badly chewed and on both occasions the bird was carried with the head held securely in the squirrel's mouth.

The Gray Squirrels were able to open and close the doors to the potter traps, entering and leaving freely. But this was the first time I had seen a squirrel enter a cell containing a bird. Since this incident, I have utilized potter traps with self-locking doors. To the best of my knowledge, the squirrels have not been able to

enter the cells after the door is shut and automatically locked; however, they occasionally manage to force a door open from the inside. Therefore, it would appear that self-locking doors would be a desirable potter trap feature to safeguard trapped birds from potential predators.—Kenneth W. Prescott, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

(See also 14, 18, 35)

1. Tenth Annual Report of the Australian Bird-banding Scheme, July 1963 to June 1964. W. B. Hitchcock. 1966. *C. S. I. R. O., Div. Wildl. Research,* Tech. Paper No. **11**: 1-49. In the period of time covered, 104,200 birds of 392 species were banded, and there were 13,911 recoveries of 217 species. Notable recoveries included: a Sooty Shearwater banded in California; two Short-tailed Shearwaters recovered within three months of banding in Japan and U. S. S. R.; a known-age Wandering Albatross, breeding in its tenth year.—David W. Johnston.

2. Report No. 1 from Tåkern Bird Station 1965. (Verksamheten vid Tåkerns fågelstation 1965.) Göran Bergengren. 1967. *Vår Fågelvärld,* **26**: 59-67. (English summary.) The main reasons for establishing this new bird station were the scientific value of regular observations at a lake of the famous Tåkern type in central Sweden and to observe inland migrations, a field hitherto largely unexplored. A total of 5,353 birds of 101 species was banded. The most interesting among the 76 recoveries was a Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) banded 28 August and found dead at Nice on the French Rivièra the following 20 September.—Louise de K. Lawrence.

MIGRATION

3. Water-birds over the Sahara. R. E. Moreau. 1967. *Ibis,* **109**(2): 232-259. This survey of the status and distribution of northern migrants in Africa south of the Sahara is a sequel to Moreau's similar survey of land birds (*Ibis,* **103a**: 373-427, 580-623, 1961). Many shorebirds and one duck (the Garganey) occur in thousands or hundreds of thousands across Africa from Senegal to Sudan, but are rarely if ever seen in transit across the desert. Distributional surveys and band recoveries both suggest that many species winter S. W. or even W. S. W. of their breeding areas, but there is only circumstantial evidence that they cross the desert diagonally. Little is known about physiological preparations for migration in these species.—I. C. T. Nisbet.

4. Grouping of Nocturnal Migrants. E. Eastwood and G. C. Rider. 1966. *Nature,* **211**(5054): 1143-1146. Two independent measurements indicated that each "angel" detected by a high-power surveillance radar station in England corresponded to between 4 and 35 birds. Use of a second radar set with a better spatial resolution showed that some groups of birds travel at night as well-defined flocks. However, "others, and perhaps the majority, are pseudo-groups . . .," i.e., chance associations of independent birds within the large volume of air sampled by the surveillance radar.—I. C. T. Nisbet.

5. Bird Hazards to Aircraft -- Operation Birdtrack 66/1. Anonymous (Canadian Forces H. Q. Directorate of Flight Safety). 1967. Circulated by Associated Committee on Bird Hazards to Aircraft, National Research Council of Canada. During 1965-66, photographic and visual monitoring of a radar screen was used to provide a continuous service forecasting concentrations of birds at the Canadian Forces base at Cold Lake, Alberta. As measured by the radar system itself (a dangerously circular check!), the forecasts were reasonably reliable, although they were made by a meteorologist with no previous knowledge of birds