

GENERAL NOTES

Wear and Wing Length in the Cardinal.—There are few birds in which the wing length of an individual may be determined in late fall or winter and again in the following summer (June-August). At Hillsborough, North Carolina, the Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) is such a species. Even in this species the amount of data obtainable for the summer months is rather small. I submit estimates of the cumulative loss of wing length for the months of April to August.

April	0.4 m.m.
May	0.4 m.m.
June	1.0 m.m.
July	2.1 m.m.
August	2.4 m.m.

There is no measurable loss through March. Since the average precision of measurement using a wing rule on a live bird is 0.5 m.m., there is no real proof of loss in April or May. This agrees with what one sees on looking at the tips of the longest primaries.—Charles H. Blake, Box 613, Hillsborough, N. C., 27278.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii*, banded on Atlantic Coast recovered on Pacific.—On August 8, 1969, I banded a nestling Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii*, on Great Gull Island, New York, 72° 07' W. and 41° 12' N. The bird was given an individual color combination consisting of three color bands along with a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service band (742-74481: Aluminum/Blue-orange stripe/Red/Blue-orange stripe) as part of a study of post breeding dispersal of young terns to be conducted later in the season. At the time of banding, the ninth primary of the tern appeared to be two inches long and upon comparing this with measurements of the primaries of known age birds I estimated the age of this bird to be about 16 days.

On October 3, while checking for color banded terns at Milford, Connecticut, located about 125 km. west of Great Gull Island, Grace Donaldson and I read the color combination of the Roseate Tern noted above. On October 27, twenty-four days later, Mr. Jack Fredericks picked up this bird on the shore of Gorgona Island, about 28 km. off the Pacific coast of Colombia, South America. Upon receiving the report of the recovery of the Roseate Tern from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I called Mr. Fredericks who lives in Glendale, California. Mr. Fredericks had written down the color combination when he found the bird. The combination corresponded with the one we used as recorded above. Mr. Fredericks reported that the bird was alive when he picked it up, but it appeared exhausted and died a short time later.

The Roseate Tern does not normally occur on the Pacific coasts of North and South America; the present individual had apparently not found them to its liking either. It would appear from a search of the literature that this record represents the second specimen handled from the Pacific coast of North America. The species is not mentioned in the Mexican Check-list but Laurence (*Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.* 4, 51, 1876) lists a specimen collected by Sumichrast from Ventosa Bay, Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, Mexico. Maybe this was the basis of Bent's mistaken belief that the species winters from "Tehuantepec to Chile". No standard work on Chile mentions it.

I would like to thank Grace Donaldson, Mary LeCroy, Alan Poole and Herb Brower, all of whom participated in the color banding project.—Helen Hays, Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y. 10024.

Homing by nesting Semipalmated Sandpipers displaced from Barrow, Alaska.—Successful research into avian orientation and navigation requires careful selection of species and localities. As an exploration of the value of homing behavior of nesting calidridine sandpipers of Barrow in this regard, we designed and implemented a small experiment in June 1971, as follows: five mated pairs of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) were captured at their nests (each