

Josselyn Van Tyne's Common Nighthawk nesting return.—Among the notes and files turned over to me for "Fundamentals of Ornithology," I found three paragraphs of a first draft of a paper which Josselyn Van Tyne obviously intended to finish as a general note on the return of a Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) to its breeding ground. Van Tyne had prepared some bibliography cards on the subject through 1952. The three paragraphs are hand-written on the back of a page of *Conservation News*, dated 15 May 1955, so we can only assume that this is the approximate time that he jotted down his first ideas. It is almost certain that he did no further work on the project because, despite his remarkable command of current world literature on birds, he did not include a reference to Dexter's second paper on Common Nighthawk returns (1956. *Bird-Banding*, 27:9-16).

Why Van Tyne did not complete the short note is purely conjectural at this time. He spent the period of 10 to 26 June 1955, in field studies: 12-13 and 24-26 June in his Kirtland's Warbler study area in Crawford County, and the intervening period in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with Dr. L. H. Walkinshaw and Dr. and Mrs. W. Powell Cottrille. He was also devoting a considerable amount of time to the AOU Check-List during this general period.

Van Tyne's hand-written notes read as follows:

"While studying Kirtland's Warblers with us in June, 1942, ten miles southeast of Mio, Oscoda County, Michigan, Frances Hamerstrom found a Nighthawk nest with 2 eggs in a little open area on a hillside among the jack pines that sheltered the Kirtland's Warblers.

"On 20 June 1942, I set a carefully concealed bow-net at the nest and caught and banded the incubating female (No. 41-222357).

"We studied the same area in 1943 but found no Nighthawk nest. However, on 24 June 1944, I found a nest in a similar habitat 450 feet south of the 1942 nest. Capturing the female with a bow-net, I found that I again had No. 41-222357."

The area "ten miles southeast of Mio, Oscoda County" was in Section 19, T25N, R4E. Parks (1946. *Bird-Banding*, 17:168) reported on a Common Nighthawk which returned to lay its eggs on the roof of the same high school in two successive years, in Hartford, Connecticut, and Dexter (1952. *Bird-Banding*, 23:109-114; 1956. *Bird-Banding*, 27:9-16) told of the return of a banded bird to the roofs of several buildings of Kent State University in Ohio. Van Tyne, however, appears to have been the first person to make observations on a banded Common Nighthawk returning to the same general nesting area on the ground, the original primitive nesting site for this species. It may be recalled that Van Tyne also was the first ornithologist to show by banding that passerine birds return to the same wintering ground in the tropics (1932. *Bird-Banding*, 3:110).—ANDREW J. BERGER, *Department of Zoology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii*, 14 July 1966.

Retarded or arrested cranial development in *Myiornis ecaudatus*.—A pair of Short-tailed Pigmy-tyrants, (*Myiornis ecaudatus*) were obtained, 19 August 1966, from rain forest, near Los Guaraunos, Estado Sucre, Venezuela. They were feeding two nestlings that were nearly ready to leave the nest.

While preparing the specimens, we observed that both had partially pneumatized or incompletely ossified skulls. The frontals and parietals were almost completely unpneumatized (single-layered), thin, transparent and flexible structures. Only the anterior parts of the frontals and posterior parts of the parietals were pneumatized