

is 1. The most dangerous time for young birds is after independence, "starvation is probably the greatest decimating factor on peregrines less than one year old." Females do most of the incubating and brooding, while the male's chief role is bringing food to his mate and young. The much larger female is dominant over the male. Either member of a pair may arrive first at the nesting cliff; any member of the opposite sex is accepted, but as soon as the former mate arrives, the interloper is chased off. The same holds true with the American Kestrel (*F. sparverius*).

Very interesting descriptions are given of mating behavior and pair socialization, particularly of cooperative hunting and courtship feeding. "Falcons are by nature extremely avaricious and pugnacious over items of food. . . . In some respects it is remarkable that falcons can mate at all, and the performance of the mated male in giving up food to his female represents a striking transition in behavior," (pp. 193-194). In some pairs there is difficulty in adjustment and the female pre-emptorily snatches the prey from her reluctant mate.

The Gyrfalcon is a true arctic species, circumpolar in distribution; it is resident and feeds largely on resident species, in many regions primarily ptarmigan. It starts laying a month before the peregrine, hence too early for ornithologists to get to its nesting grounds. Its average clutch is 3.8 eggs. "In years of poor food supply, non-breeding occurs on a region-wide basis."

The author concludes that between these two falcons "the gyrfalcon is the dominant competitor because of (1) its greater size and strength and (2) its early breeding schedule which gives it first chance to settle on available cliffs. Nevertheless, the peregrine is a numerically more successful species over most of the range that it occupies with the gyrfalcon because of (1) changing climatic conditions that are favorable to the biotopic adaptations of the peregrine, (2) its less restricted requirements for nesting sites on cliffs, (3) its summer exploitation of a constantly adequate source of food, and (4) its escape from the arctic winter by migration."—M. M. Nice.

#### 26. The Eleventh Annual Report of the Wildfowl Trust. 1958-1959.

Hugh Boyd and Peter Scott. 1960. Bailey and Son. Dursley, Glos. 10 shillings. 167 pp. Another informative and handsome report of the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, illustrated with excellent photographs and Peter Scott's sketches. The Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*) eggs show low fertility and poor hatchability. Spotted Whistling Ducks (*Dendrocygna guttata*) bred for the first time in captivity. Five young Hartlaub's Ducks (*Cairina h. hartlaubi*) are the first ever raised in captivity. Paul A. Johnsgard discusses "Comparative Behaviour of the Anatidae and its Evolutionary Implications." N. G. Blurton Jones describes "Experiments on the Causation of the Threat Postures of Canada Geese," based on experiences with a pair of hand-raised birds. In his interesting brief report on "Injury-feigning in the Anatidae" Frederick V. Hebard lists 58 species in which this behavior has been recorded and 17 in which it seems not to occur; on 74 species information as yet is insufficient. "Lead Poisoning in Wildfowl" by P. J. S. Olney, pp. 123-234, is a valuable presentation of this baffling problem that takes an appreciable toll of our waterfowl, at times the mortality from the ingestion of lead shot reaching "spectacular proportions." There is a two page bibliography. Peter Scott's account of his visit to the Galapagos Islands "BBC/IUCN Darwin Centenary Expedition," pp. 61-76, is full of interest and the sketches are a delight.—M. M. Nice.

### NEBBA INCORPORATES

At the annual meeting held on October 1, 1960, the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association decided to incorporate as a Massachusetts corporation for scientific and educational purposes, after more than 35 years of existence as an unincorporated association. A committee, appointed at this meeting, was authorized to take the necessary legal steps in its behalf.

The association came to this decision for two principal reasons:

- (1) to make it easier for NEBBA to hold land and securities over a period of time, which was the primary reason; and
- (2) to limit the liability of its officers.

NEBBA received confirmation, some years ago, that gifts to it were deductible from income subject to federal income tax. The new corporation will of course share this ruling, and will help to stimulate such gifts by providing additional safeguards in the future handling of funds. We now have a small permanent endowment (from life membership fees); an increase in this endowment by such fees, or gifts, or bequests, would be of real assistance in the publication of *Bird-Banding* and in the other activities of the association.

NEBBA has an entirely new set of by-laws (copies may be obtained without charge from the Secretary, Roland L. Sargent, 45 Fairfield St., Needham 92, Mass.). These expand and clarify the previous by-laws, and introduce some technical points needed by a corporation. Highlights of the substantive changes include the following:

- (a) Only one vice-president is provided. Particularly since we have no rule or tradition for rapid turnover of the office of president, it became apparent that the value of several vice-presidential offices as training for succession to the presidency was quite limited;
- (b) Councillors now have a four-year term (for greater continuity), and the number has been increased from 9 to 12;
- (c) The by-laws formally provide for the appointment of assistant secretaries or treasurers (at present, John Conkey is assistant treasurer for the Nantucket Ornithological Research Station, and E. A. Bergstrom for the Mist Net Account);
- (d) The fiscal year, previously from November 1 to October 31, will become September 1 to August 31. The change will require a fiscal year from November 1, 1960 to August 31, 1961, only 10 months. Final reports for the fiscal year, rather than estimates, can be presented at future annual meetings. The fiscal year ending in October was established at a time when the NEBBA annual meeting customarily was in mid-winter; the annual meeting is now in October.

NEBBA is indebted to the committee which drafted the new by-laws: Richard J. Eaton (chairman), William H. Drury, Jr., and David L. Garrison. Few members can readily visualize the many months of time and thought they devoted to the task, but at the annual meeting there was full agreement that an outstanding job had been done. The association is especially indebted to Mr. Kenneth W. Thomson of Boston for his indispensable legal advice and assistance, which he has freely given for a purely nominal fee.

The effective date of incorporation is to be determined.

### INDEX TO BIRD-BANDING, 1941-50

While the new index has been mentioned briefly in the past two issues, its wealth of information deserves more extended comments.

With iv + 247 pages, it is about as bulky as a recent full year of *Bird-Banding* itself. This is accounted for by extensive cross-references, which penetrate much deeper than the title of the paper. For example, references to "The Nesting Habits of the Whip-poor-will," by Gilbert S. Raynor, *Bird-Banding* 12: 98-104, July, 1941, include entries under: *Antrostomus* (cross-reference under the old Latin name), *Caprimulgus*, eggs—measurement, incubation period, Raynor, voice, and Whip-poor-will (cross-reference under the English name).

Under the heading of *Turdus*, 14 species are listed. *T. migratorius* (our Robin) is represented by no less than 40 headings or subheadings, with up to 12 page references each. The headings for species outside the U. S. or Canada are also plentiful: for example, 39 for *T. merula* the (European) Blackbird.

Individual authors are listed in detail, either for papers and notes in *Bird-Banding* or for reviews of work elsewhere. For David Lack, the index has 35 entries (including papers in which he was co-author).

Subject headings and subheadings cover a wide field. Under the general heading of "management," the heading "control" has 22 subheadings. Ten entries appear under the subheading "predators" and four under "DDT spraying, effect on birds" (the 1951-60 index volume will of course have many more entries under this last subheading).

We think that the new index will be highly useful for anyone who has the volumes of *Bird-Banding* for that decade. However, its usefulness does not stop there. The college reader who has access to these volumes in another part of the