



FIGURE 2. Close-up of the reconstructed nest containing one of the original two eggs and a smooth egg-shaped rock.

In a Ring-billed Gull breeding colony where nest density is high, apparently egg-rolling behavior would be favored over the construction of a new nest, because in most cases a distance greater than 30 cm from the original nest would locate the eggs in the nest territory of another pair of adults. However, the nest that we observed, although in an area of high density, was located next to a nest territory that had been deserted earlier in the season. Therefore, when the eggs were displaced, the adults did not have to compete with another adult pair for the new nest site.—FRANCESCA J. CUTHBERT and WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, *Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115*. Received 7 March 1973, accepted 20 March 1973.

A longevity and round trip record of Purple Finches.—An adult male Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) No. 73-53582, banded at my home 7 March 1966, was retaken 17 February 1970, repeating in March and April. I recaptured him on 20 and 31 January 1973 and 18 March 1973. When banded in raspberry red plumage, he was at least in his second year of age. Therefore in 1973, he was in at least his ninth year.

Another individual, No. 79-42897 banded on 14 February 1972, age and sex unknown, was captured and released by Gordon Loery of Morris, Connecticut on 8 and 12 May 1972. I recaptured this bird on 15 and 19 January 1973 in female plumage.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, *1721 Graybar Lane, Nashville, Tennessee 37215*. Received 16 March 1973, accepted 22 March 1973.

More on one-night mileage of migrants.—Amelia R. Laskey has noted the meagerness of published data on distances covered in a day or night by banded migratory birds (*Bird-Banding*, 43: 287, 1972). Although the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) is not a regular migrant, my one record of flight time and distance is of interest. Between 12 February and 24 February 1960, I banded 14 Pine Siskins at Somesville, Maine, of which four were recovered in Brunswick, Maine, by F. Burton Whitman, Jr., on 25 February and 26 February. The straight-line scaled distance between Somesville and Brunswick is 96 1/4 miles.

The four recovered birds were:

	Banded at Somesville	Recovered at Brunswick
No. 31-43553	12 Feb.	26 Feb.
603	20 Feb.	25 Feb. at 06:45
617	23 Feb.	26 Feb.
641	24 Feb. at 14:35	25 Feb. at 06:45

Although the maximum possible travel time is known for only one bird, it seems reasonable to assume that these four birds travelled together, at least 96 miles in approximately 16 hours. BARBARA N. PATTERSON, *Somesville, Mount Desert, Maine 04660*. Received 22 March 1973, accepted 30 March 1973.

Returns of North American birds to their wintering grounds in southern Mexico.—Migrant and wintering populations of North American passerines in the tropics and subtropics have long been neglected in favor of resident species. Recently, mist-netting and banding studies have provided detailed information on populations in British Honduras (Nickell, *Bird-Banding*, **39**: 107-116, 1968), Panama (Loftin et al., *Bird-Banding*, **37**: 35-44, 1966), and at other sites, most of them in Central America. I began studying wintering North American passerine populations at four localities in Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico in December-January 1970-71 and began a banding program the following winter. To date, field work has been restricted to three-week periods in mid-December-mid-January corresponding to the college "intersession." Netting was confined to four small areas (each under 10 acres) because of time limitations and to allow more thorough study of the four habitats. Winter populations seem fairly sedentary, and the resulting sample sizes are small.

An unexpected result of the study to date is the remarkably high return rate during the second winter of banding—10% of the birds banded the previous year. In 1971-72 we banded 289 individuals of 26 species, and the next winter 29 individuals of 14 species returned (Table 1). In fact, returns accounted for 17% of

TABLE 1. Return of selected North American species to the same wintering grounds in southern Mexico.

	Banded ^a 1971-72	Returns 1972-73	Banded ^b 1972-73
Crested Flycatcher	7	2	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	1	4
Least Flycatcher	18	4	23
Wood Thrush	89	2	19
Solitary Vireo	3	1	4
Black-and-white Warbler	3	2	6
Worm-eating Warbler	5	2	4
Magnolia Warbler	15	2	10
Ovenbird	24	2	23
Kentucky Warbler	14	3	13
MacGillivray's Warbler	7	1	9
Yellow-breasted Chat	14	4	10
Hooded Warbler	2	2	7
Painted Bunting	11	1	5
Totals	214	29	139

^aAn additional 12 species (75 individuals) produced no returns.

^bAn additional 46 individuals (12 species) were banded.