

**To the Editor of the Auk, Sir:**

**Abnormal young terns, organochlorines and arboviruses.**—The Auk has now published three communications reporting the occurrence of congenital abnormalities and feather-shedding in young terns along the east coast of North America in the early 1970s, and the presence of similar congenital abnormalities in terns and other water birds of the North American Great Lakes, suggesting that they may be due to organochlorine pollution (Auk 89: 19–35, 92: 58–65, 93: 434–442). We have enquired into the incidence of such phenomena in the Old World, and find that while they have not attracted attention around the at least equally polluted coasts of Europe, similar phenomena were noticed at much the same time in the Indian Ocean on the Seychelles, where some of the terns and associated shorebirds also developed neurological symptoms and died (Marine Pollution Bulletin 8 in press).

We have found that whereas in the Indian Ocean seabirds normally contain less than one  $\mu\text{g/g}$  (ppm) of combined organochlorines, the site with the highest incidence of abnormalities also had an exceptional infestation of ticks *Ornithodoros capensis* infected with Soldado virus (Converse et al. 1975, Amer. J. Trop. Med. Hyg. 24: 1010–1018). The first virus of this group was described from the same species of tick at one of the sites where similar abnormalities have been reported in terns in North America, the Dry Tortugas off Florida. Similar viruses are known to be transmitted between generations of ticks in their eggs, and if they also occur in birds' eggs this could explain the occurrence of congenital abnormalities. A similar failure of feather-growth known as "French molt" has also been attributed to a transovarially-transmitted virus (among other possible causes) in captive Budgerigars *Melopsittacus undulatus* (Arnall and Keymer 1975, Bird Diseases, London, Balliere Tindall, pp. 210–213).

There appears to be a need for more investigation of the possible role of arboviruses in causing such phenomena than we found practical in the Indian Ocean.—W. R. P. BOURNE, *Zoology Department, Aberdeen University, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen, Scotland*; J. A. BOGAN, *Department of Veterinary Pharmacology, Glasgow University, Veterinary Hospital, Bearsden Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, Scotland*; D. BULLOCK, *Zoology Department, Edinburgh University, Kings Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, Scotland*; A. W. DIAMOND, *Department of Zoology, University of Nairobi, Chiromo, P. O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya*; and C. J. FEARE, *Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pest Infestation Control Laboratory, Field Research Station, Tangle Place, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3LQ, England*.

**OBITUARY**

HARRISON FLINT LEWIS was born December 15, 1893 at Sag Harbor, Long Island, New York, and died January 16, 1975 at his home in Sable River, Nova Scotia. He joined the A.O.U. as an Associate Member in 1912, was elected to full membership in 1930, and became a Life Fellow in 1942. He was one of Arthur A. Allen's early graduate students at Cornell, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1929 with a thesis on his five years of field work with the Double-crested Cormorant on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Most of his professional life was spent working for the Canadian government. He became Chief Migratory Bird Officer for Ontario and Quebec in 1920, and served throughout the provinces of Ontario and Quebec from then until 1944. In 1947 he became the first Chief of the Canadian Wildlife Service and steered this important national agency through its formative years until he left the service in 1952. For a detailed account of his illustrious career with a photograph and a 326-title list of his major publications see *The Canadian Field Naturalist*, 1974, 88: 507–516.—O. L. AUSTIN, JR.

**NOTES AND NEWS**

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its 95th Stated Meeting 22–26 August at University of California, Berkeley, California at the invitation of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the University. A Circular of Information providing details of the meeting and a formal call for papers will be circulated to the A.O.U. membership. Chairman of the Local Committee is Dr. Ned K. Johnson, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720. Chairman of the Committee on Program at the meeting is Dr. James R. King, Laboratories of Zoophysiology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163.

Fellows and Elective Members of the A.O.U. are reminded that nominations for the classes of Fellow and Honorary and Corresponding Fellow (by Fellows only) and Elective Member (by Fellows and Elective

Members) must be in the hands of the Secretary 90 days prior to the annual meeting. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary. Nominations complete with supporting data or suggestions for the committees' consideration should be submitted to the Chairman of the Committee on the Nomination of Fellows and Elective Members, Dr. Joseph H. Jehl, Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 94112, or the Chairman of the Committee on the Nomination of Honorary and Corresponding Fellows, Dr. Donald S. Farner, Department of Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195, in ample time for processing and submission to the Secretary by 21 May 1977.

**Shorebird color-marking.**—In 1977 the Canadian Wildlife Service will again be carrying out extensive banding and color-marking of shorebirds in James Bay. Last year, over 12,400 shorebirds were captured during July and August resulting in over 580 reports of color-marked birds in eastern North America and South America. Much valuable information on migration routes is being obtained and observers are again asked to look out for and report any color-dyed or color-banded shorebirds that they may see. Reports should include details of species (with age if possible), place, date, color-marks and, if possible, notes on the numbers of other shorebirds present. For color-dyed birds, please record the color and area of the bird that was dyed. For color bands and standard metal leg bands, please record which leg the bands were on, whether they were above or below the "knee," the colors involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. right leg, blue over metal, etc.). All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to DR. R. I. G. MORRISON, *Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7*.

On behalf of the A.O.U. the editor thanks the following 153 colleagues who helped him by refereeing manuscripts during 1976: K. P. Able, R. M. Alison, D. Amadon, P. L. Ames, R. D. Applegate, A. M. Bailey, R. P. Balda, R. C. Banks, T. S. Baskett, W. H. Behle, F. C. Bellrose, Jr., C. H. Blake, E. R. Blake, C. E. Bock, W. S. Bock, E. G. Bolen, J. Bond, D. J. Borrer, F. J. Brenner, P. Brodtkorb, J. W. Brookbank, P. A. Buckley, J. Burger, T. J. Cade, W. A. Calder, Jr., D. R. Chamberlain, M. H. Clench, F. G. Cooch, R. B. Craig, R. D. Crawford, R. L. Crawford, R. S. Crossin, B. B. DeWolfe, J. J. Dinsmore, W. H. Drury, E. H. Dunn, J. L. Dusi, A. Dzubin, S. W. Eaton, E. Eisenmann, J. T. Emlen, Jr., S. T. Emlen, R. M. Evans, J. B. Falls, D. S. Farner, J. A. Feduccia, M. S. Ficken, H. I. Fisher, S. D. Fretwell, H. Freidmann, M. Friend, S. A. Gauthreaux, J. A. Gessaman, F. B. Gill, W. E. Godfrey, J. W. Graber, R. R. Graber, T. C. Grubb, Jr., J. H. Haffer, F. N. Hamerstrom, Jr., J. W. Hardy, C. J. Henny, F. Heppner, H. A. Hesperheide, J. J. Hickey, D. V. Howard, H. Howard, T. R. Howell, J. Hubbard, P. S. Humphrey, G. L. Hunt, Jr., J. A. Jackson, F. C. James, J. R. Jehl, P. A. Johnsgard, N. K. Johnson, D. W. Johnston, M. P. Kahl, Jr., H. W. Kale, II, S. C. Kendeigh, L. E. Kiff, L. Kilham, J. R. King, J. A. Kushlan, W. E. Lanyon, C. Leck, A. S. Leopold, R. E. LeResche, M. H. MacRoberts, W. J. Maher, P. R. Marler, H. F. Mayfield, R. W. McFarlane, J. McIntyre, D. F. McKinney, R. A. McNabb, R. Meyer de Schauensee, T. C. Moermond, M. L. Morton, H. C. Mueller, P. C. Munding, B. G. Murray, Jr., I. C. T. Nisbet, V. Nolan, Jr., J. C. Ogden, R. D. Ohmart, S. L. Olson, G. H. Orians, R. S. Palmer, K. C. Parkes, R. A. Paynter, R. L. Penney, L. R. Peterson, A. R. Phillips, F. A. Pitelka, S. Postupalsky, R. W. Powell, D. M. Power, F. W. Preston, R. J. Raitt, A. L. Rand, D. G. Raveling, R. E. Ricklefs, W. B. Robertson, Jr., C. S. Robbins, R. R. Roth, S. I. Rothstein, S. M. Russell, R. W. Schreiber, L. L. Short, A. F. Skutch, W. J. L. Sladen, S. M. Smith, W. J. Smith, W. R. Spofford, II, P. A. Stewart, R. W. Storer, J. L. Tate, Jr., J. Terborgh, H. B. Tordoff, D. Trainer, E. J. Tramer, M. A. Traylor, Jr., J. Verner, G. E. Watson, M. W. Weller, C. Welty, J. A. Wiens, E. E. Williams, L. E. Williams, Jr., M. Willson, G. E. Woolfenden, and D. A. Zimmerman.

**Request for information.**—Last year the Surinam Forest Service color-banded nearly 3300 Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, resulting in 14 spring and summer sightings and recoveries from the United States and Canada. In 1977 again large numbers of these species will be color-banded along the Surinam coast. As in 1976, birds will be banded above the tarsus ("knee") with a standard aluminum band and two orange plastic bands of about the same size as the aluminum band. We again ask birders to look out for these birds and to send reports of observations to ARIE L. SPAANS, *Surinam Forest Service, P. O. Box 436, Paramaribo, Surinam, South America*. Please report species, date and location of observation, the position of the aluminum and color-bands on left and/or right leg, and, if more than 1 band is on a leg, which band is above, which below, and which in the middle (some birds have all three bands on one leg), and number of color-banded birds involved.

I urge members of the A.O.U. to submit **drafts of potential resolutions** to be considered for adoption by the Union at the 95th Stated Meeting at Berkeley in August. Subject matter should be pertinent to the scientific interests and objectives of the A.O.U. Your input is needed. Please send drafts, with any helpful background information, to the *Committee on Resolutions, Dr. Marshall A. Howe, National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C. 20560.*

**Continental Color-marking Plan for the Purple Martin.**—Although several thousand Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) have been banded, very little is known and understood about their dispersal and migration from the breeding and wintering areas. Even recovery records leave many important questions unanswered—What is the postbreeding dispersal pattern? Where do breeding and hatching year individuals stage and roost prior to and during migration? Where do martins from each state or province winter and does their migration route differ? How widely do birds from each state or province disperse after the winter?

A concentrated effort to color-mark martins on a continental scale and a coordinated observation effort have been planned by Jerome A. Jackson and M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz and should help answer many of these questions. Each state, group of states, or province will be assigned a two-color plastic leg band combination. Leg and/or wing markers may be used at a later time (both are presently being used on a small-scale experimental basis in Ontario and Maryland). All color bands will be ordered from the same source in order to standardize colors. Only nestlings and/or breeding adults will be color-marked at the present time because roosts often consist of individuals from several states.

All banders and subpermittees are encouraged to participate in this project. Detailed directions and the continental color-marking plan will be sent to interested individuals. The source for the plastic color leg bands and a key to age and sex for adults will be sent to banders who plan to participate. A capture technique for adults is also available upon request. All inquiries should be sent to: *Kathy Klimkiewicz, Biologist, Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland 20811.*

**Needed: Egg date records for Purple Martins.** Please send date on which each martin pair at colony laid its 1st egg. Age of each pair (adult or subadult) if known and yearly total of martin young raised at colony also will be helpful. If dates represent 2nd nesting attempts or 2nd broods, please indicate. Records for as many years as possible are needed. Each contribution will be acknowledged.—*CHARLES R. BROWN, 2601 Turtle Creek Drive, Sherman, Texas 75090.*

**Wing-tagged laughing gulls.**—Juvenile Laughing Gulls have been wing-tagged with green or orange and green wing tags (and with U.S.F.W.S. metal leg bands) in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey to study behavior, migration, habitat selection, and survival rates. The tags are round (2" in diameter) and numbered. Please report all sightings to Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migration Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland 20811. Please indicate date, time, location, color of tag, and number of the tag if possible. Information may also be sent to *JOANNA BURGER, Department of Biology, Livingston College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. 08903.*

**Vertebrate paleontologist wanted.**—Position for Ph.D. with interest in Florida Cenozoic, preferably nonmammalian emphasis. Visiting Assistant Curator, 12 mos., \$15,000–17,000; one-year appointment, possibly continuing; teaching opportunities. Deadline 1 June 1977. Begins 26 September 1977. Send letter naming three references and C.V. to SEARCH COMMITTEE, *Department of Natural Sciences, Florida State Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.* An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, the University is actively seeking women and minority applicants.