

This note places on record several more recent instances of adult Downies having chalcedony-yellow on the under parts as well as in the normally white portions of the outer pairs of retrices—birds several years old, one No. 62904, banded in Cohasset, August 31, 1923, and recaptured July 31, 1927, during the molt; the other, No. 117458 (male), banded at Peterboro, May 2, 1925, the observation being made August 21, 1927, at the time the molt was nearly completed. On August 28, 1927, the yellow under parts of this bird appeared conspicuously in a good light at a distance of twenty feet.

These two examples of old birds with yellowish outer tail feathers are the only two instances of the kind observed by me. Ridgway makes no reference to this coloration as occurring on either young or old birds, and the inference is natural that museum collections of bird-skins of this race do not show noticeable buff or yellow under parts or outer tail feathers, facts indicating that these colors fade in course of time and probably quickly. This latter aspect of the matter is perhaps illustrated by the faintness of the yellow color of the adult birds described above taken in November and December, three to four months after the completion of the molt. From my records I note that Downies captured from January 1st until the time the birds-of-the-year first come to my station are without noticeable yellowish coloration.

#### GENERAL NOTES

**Gull-Banding at Muskeget Island.**—The morning of July 12, 1927, dawned with a thick fog present, and most other mornings during July and August have also been foggy. Notwithstanding, I left Martha's Vineyard for Muskeget Island with two helpers to band Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). We reached the island about noon, when banding work began. To one unaccustomed to the clamor of countless sea-birds, the commotion during banding operations provides a thrill not to be forgotten in years. Thousands of Laughing Gulls and Common and Roseate Terns nest here, and the colony of Herring Gulls has grown from nothing a few years ago to at least a hundred pairs to-day. It was a laughable sight to see the clumsy half-grown Herring Gulls scampering off with their characteristic rolling gait. Often the young Herring Gulls would hide alone or in groups of three or four in the long grass of the breeding-ground, and such birds were found with comparative ease. The young birds on Smith's Point, a sand-bar belonging to Muskeget Island, however, have no grass to hide in, so their habit is to run down to the surf and just tumble in. They can swim as soon as born and they have no fear of the surf. They get tossed about a good deal and seem to be in some distress when the ocean is rough, but after a few moments they come back to land, and in a very short time the sun dries out the down with which the young are covered and they lose



NEST AND EGGS OF THE ROSEATE TURN  
NEST AND EGGS OF THE LAUGHING GULL.

that half-drowned look and become the spotted grey puff-balls they were before the swim.

The larger Herring Gulls, birds that were about ready to fly when banded, were very easily handled, in fact more so than the younger ones. I would locate a bird or group in the grass of the main island and simply pull out from under a bird one of its legs, band it, and then go to the next one, the bird remaining just where it was.

I banded about one hundred Herring Gulls and about as many Laughing Gulls.

One of the nestling Laughing Gulls is shown on the cover of this number of the *Bulletin*, and the accompanying plate shows the nests and eggs of the Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougalli*) and of the Laughing Gull. These were photographed by me while on this banding expedition.—ALLAN KENISTON, Heath Hen Reservation, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

**Savannah and White-throated Sparrow Returns.**—During the winter season of 1926, I banded at Summerville, South Carolina, twenty-three Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*) and ninety-five White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Of these, three of the former species and seven of the latter species returned in 1927—13.00 and 7.368 per cent respectively.

The tabulated records of these returns are as follows:

	No.	Banding Date	Returning Date
Savannahs	A51906	Mar. 20, 1926	Mar. 15, 1927
	A51930	Mar. 21, 1926	Mar. 14, 1927
	A57001	Mar. 21, 1926	Mar. 15, 1927
White-throats	44657	Jan. 19, 1926	Mar. 26, 1927
	44665	Jan. 25, 1926	Feb. 5, 1927
	44669	Jan. 25, 1926	Feb. 2, 1927
	181112	Feb. 25, 1926	Jan. 12, 1927
	181114	Feb. 26, 1926	Jan. 31, 1927
	181124	Mar. 2, 1926	Feb. 3, 1927
	181142	Apr. 12, 1926	Apr. 11, 1927

A mixed flock of Savannah, Vesper, and Chipping Sparrows was noticed feeding in the short grass of a golf course, causing me to move one of my traps to this spot, where I captured the twenty-three Savannahs noted. This was about March 20, 1926. The returns taken in 1927 were captured very close to the spot where the birds were banded. The birds were not baited or fed by me either year, except for two or three days prior to setting the trap, in order to get them used to coming to the spot where the trap was to be set.

Of the seven White-throat returns, five were taken within two hundred feet of where they were banded in 1926, and these birds also returned to the approximate spot where they were banded, without previous artificial feeding or baiting being employed by me to bring them there.

Both of the above cases emphasize the fact that these species apparently tend to return to the same spot to pass the winter, the group aspect of the matter being apparent.—WILLIAM P. WHARTON, Groton, Massachusetts.

**Another Broad-winged Hawk Return.**—I have just received notice from the Biological Survey that Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo p. platypterus*)