

## GENERAL NOTES

**Mallard Number 555414 Returns Again.**—The remarkable record of Mallard No. 555414 continues. Again she has escaped the perils of the hunting season and has returned to her unusual nesting site in a box on the roof of a barn at the Rainbow's End Game Refuge, at Antioch, Nebraska, operated by F. J. Keller.

It seems desirable to present at this time, a brief review of her history, as already recorded.<sup>1</sup> During the season of 1927 she made her first use of the nest box on the roof of Mr. Keller's barn. She was banded on November 29, 1927, and has returned to nest every year since, as follows: March 12, 1928; March 10, 1929; March 11, 1930; April 9, 1931; February 21, 1932; and March 12, 1933.

In addition to having established the most remarkable series of return records that thus far has been made by a duck, Mallard 555414 this year has produced a most unusual set of eggs. She started laying on April 12th and three days later Mr. Keller wrote to the Biological Survey that she had four eggs that measured only one inch in diameter by one and one fourth inches in length. Mr. Keller added the laconic comment that "the depression must have hit her." Since it was certain that these runt eggs would not hatch, the author wrote Mr. Keller, expressing his opinion that our famous duck deserved a "better break" and suggested that the runt eggs be removed and normal Mallard eggs from some other bird be substituted. Mr. Keller acted upon this suggestion and he has forwarded the set of twelve runt eggs to the Survey. He reports that fourteen were laid but two were broken in the nest. Other eggs were given to her and Mr. Keller states that she has taken them without protest. The set of runt eggs is being turned in to the U. S. National Museum.

The old band, while still legible, shows its age so Mr. Keller has placed another band (A604109) on the other foot. He reports that when attaching this second band he found the bird to be in excellent physical condition, although the set of runt eggs would seem to indicate that she has about reached the normal reproductive span of years for a bird of her species. Mr. Keller believes that she is at least ten years old.

The great interest that attaches to this venerable old duck is evidenced by the fact that Mr. Keller reports he has received letters of inquiry from "the Pacific coast and Texas, clear across the continent to Baltimore and Boston." He suggests that if she does finally fall before the gun of a hunter, it would be most appropriate if she could be at once recognized and taken to a taxidermist for mounting. Such preservation would be most fitting for a bird that is known to have produced more than a hundred ducklings. In the opinion of the writer, the mounted bird should be then presented to Mr. Keller, through whose interest and successful management of his game refuge, this interesting history has been made.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

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**A Palm Warbler Recovered in Newfoundland.**—A Palm Warbler (*Dendroica p. palmarum*) which was banded at this Station on October 9, 1932, was caught in the home of Mrs. Frank Greene at Point Verde, Placentia, Newfoundland, on November 28, 1932. The distance from North

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<sup>1</sup>Bull. Northeastern Bird-Banding Assn., Vol. V, No. 3, pp. 92-94, July, 1929.  
Bird-Banding, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 32, Jan., 1932.  
Bird-Banding, Vol. III, No. 3, pp. 110-111, July, 1932.