

## 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.

**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

<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.

Eastham to Placentia is approximately 850 miles. Assuming that this bird was on Cape Cod about October 26, its extraordinary northward flight may be attributed to the violent gales from the south that were experienced here on the 26th and 27th. So far as we can determine, this is the first capture of this species in Newfoundland.—MAURICE BROWN, Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

**Robins and Carolina Chickadees Remating.**—A pair of Robins (*Turdus migratorius migratorius*) banded in March, 1931, having been mated three years in succession. In 1932 the male arrived February 10; in 1933 on January 25th, although he did not begin to sing until February 19th. No other nesting males were seen before February 20th. For the first week or two after his arrival the banded male ranged as far as two hundred to three hundred yards from our house, but during the nesting season his range is very restricted. Weights of this bird have been as follows: February 25, 1932, at 5 P.M., 79.8 grams; January 28, 1933, at 5 P.M., 97.1 grams; March 24 at 3 P.M., 89.5 grams; April 12 at 6 P.M., 84 grams.

His mate never comes till March. Her weights have been 77 grams at 9 A.M. March 29, 1932, and 79.3 grams at 4 P.M. April 17, 1933. We have a large population of nesting Robins on our grounds, and females as well as males are often seen fighting. An unbanded female was seen with our banded male on March 5th, but a few days later she had disappeared and the former mate was with him. It may well be that a female Robin on returning and finding her place preëmpted, does not calmly accept the situation and go elsewhere, as does the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia beata*) female, but that she drives off her rival.

A pair of Carolina Chickadees (*Penthestes carolinus carolinus*) were banded in December, 1931, and January, 1932, and have been together continuously ever since. The weights of the male have been as follows: December 31, 1931, at 2 P.M., 12 grams; March 23 at 3.30 P.M., 11.3 grams; October 14, 11 A.M., 10.5 grams; December 9 at 4 P.M., 11.3 grams and April 12, 1933, at 11 A.M., 10.4 grams. Those of the female have been: January 10, 1932, at 1 P.M., 9.9 grams; March 17 at 5 P.M., 10 grams; April 12 at 11, 9.6 grams. These birds regularly range about six hundred yards to the north of our house and about three hundred west, over an area of some thirty-five acres.

Both Robins and Chickadees are provided with colored celluloid bands.—MARGARET M. NICE, Columbus, Ohio, April 20, 1933.

**Some Interesting Recoveries.**—Between the inception of work at the Austin Research Station, in June, 1930, and April 1, 1933, there have been banded 36,000 birds. Recoveries have been obtained of 417 birds, or 1.15 per cent, comprising mainly Common Terns and Black Ducks, which provide significant data to be published elsewhere. The following recoveries of other species are taken from the station records and presented as being of interest.

Wilson's Snipe (*Capella gallinago delicata*). Four individuals were banded in the fall of 1932. Of these, a bird banded September 4th, was shot at Coinjock, Currituck County, North Carolina, on January 12, 1933.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*). One of four nestlings banded on June 28, 1931, was found dead, caught in asphalt on the roof of a building in Panama City, Florida, on September 9, 1931.

Eastern Crow (*Corvus b. brachyrhynchos*). Of thirty Crows banded to