

for the night because of the noisy contesting for perches which the birds exhibit before settling down.

After dark the roosts were revisited and spots where sparrows had been seen going to roost, or spots which looked as if they might harbor sparrows, were located by flashlight. The flashlight was then turned off. The sectional handle was adjusted to the appropriate length and the net hoisted quietly and pressed gently against the side of the building and then jiggled slightly. Whereupon the bird or birds within the area covered by the mouth of the net would awaken, fly out and flutter down into the tail of the net. The net was then lowered to the ground, and the birds transferred to a holding cage. In this way approximately 300 English Sparrows, and incidentally a number of starlings and pigeons, were captured.—George A. Bartholomew, Jr., University of California at Los Angeles, California.

Use of Wood Duck Nesting Boxes by Screech Owls.—The continued use of desirable territory by the Screech Owl, *Otus asio* (Linnaeus), is indicated by the following banding and return records. On May 8, 1946, three Screech Owl adults were found and banded when a routine examination of the Wood Duck nesting boxes at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton, Massachusetts was made by personnel of the Massachusetts Conservation Department, under the immediate direction of Robert H. Johnson. No. 42-515191 was an adult female in the gray phase, found hovering six nestlings. No. 42-515192 was an adult female in the red phase, found to be hovering five nestlings. No. 42-515193 was an adult male found in a box by himself, and in the gray plumage phase. The nestlings present were too small to band, and, unfortunately, press of other projects resulted in the lost opportunity to band them when they reached the proper size.

The pre-nesting examination of the Wood Duck nest boxes in the spring of 1947 was made on March 26. On that date, red phase female 42-515192 was taken as a return with 42-515193, grey phase male. Both were in nest box no. 20 at this time.

A subsequent examination made on May 12, 1947, gave another record for the female with band 42-515192. At this time she was hovering five small young in box no. 16. No other Screech Owls were found during this examination.

Apparently the large nest boxes with four inch entrance holes installed for Wood Ducks, made very acceptable nesting and roosting sites for Screech Owls. This factor, coupled with the nearby presence of several grassy areas and a rather extensive area of land lying in fallow, both of which were heavily populated with meadow mice, (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), provided ideal territory for these small owls.

The more obvious remains of birds that had entered into the diet of the Screech Owls were found, the following species being represented: Flicker, *Colaptes auratus luteus* Bangs, Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum* (Linnaeus), Eastern Robin, *Turdus m. migratorius* (Linnaeus) and Eastern Song Sparrow, *Melospiza m. melodia* (Wilson). The effect of the owl's depredations on the song bird population was not superficially noticeable. Edwin A. Mason, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton, Massachusetts.

Maryland Piping Plover Recovered in the Bahamas.—Word has just been received that Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus melodus* Ord, No. 46-120304, which we banded as a juvenal on July 12, 1947, at Ocean City, Maryland, was recovered on October 22, 1947, at Sword Fish Creek on the Island of Grand Bahama. Although more than 1600 Piping Plovers have been banded, this is the first recovery from south of South Carolina, and the first between the months of August and April. Not only are there relatively few records for this species in the Bahamas, but until the present time it has not been known whether the

typical race or the western subspecies, *C. m. circumcinctus*, occurs there. At least the initial step toward the solution of this problem has now been made. It is also of considerable interest that a bird raised within 100 miles of the southern limit of its present breeding range should be recovered at the southern extremity of its winter range.—Chandler S. Robbins and Robert E. Stewart, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

Common Terns Nesting in Illinois.—For several years a small colony of Common Terns, *Sterna hirundo hirundo* (Linnaeus), have been making unsuccessful attempts to nest at Waukegan, Illinois, on the shore of Lake Michigan. As early as 1937, William I. Lyon banded a few young on the property of the Public Service Company. We returned to the nests two days later and found them deserted because the sand tracked up by dogs had apparently wrecked the nests and eggs, carrying off the young birds that we had banded. During the years of 1938-1939 and 1940 a few pair made attempts to nest on this site, a small mound of sand about eight feet above the water and about fifty feet back from the beach, in an area that is fenced off from the public. To my knowledge none of the young ever survived owing to the dogs and cats that were able to get to the grounds along the shore.

With the advent of the war this became restricted area and no attempt was made by anyone that I know of to do anything with the colony. During the war while on duty here with the Coast Guard I observed the adult birds carrying minnows into the site, so I am certain that they continued in their nesting attempts. The company guards on duty there told me that "Black-headed Gulls" would dive at them whenever they approached that piece of ground. This covers the years from 1941 to 1946. It is evident that there have been nests there each year since 1937.

This year I obtained a permit to enter this property and on June 9th, I found three nests with two eggs and one with three eggs, all being incubated. On June 15th, the nests were, except for one nest with two warm eggs, destroyed. The rest of the eggs were either broken or scattered from the nests. Tracks in the sand indicated dogs. However, I noticed several adult birds flying toward the property of the Johns Manville Corporation across the road, with minnows in their bills. Looking this area over with my glasses I discovered fifteen adults apparently on nests in a small area between the factory buildings and the lake shore. It consists of a low flat barren bit of dried mud, devoid of vegetation, except on the north and east sides which had a heavy growth of weeds. On the south is a railroad track and the west is bounded by a refuse dump.

Upon my return from my gull banding trip to the northern end of Lake Michigan, I obtained a permit to enter this property, and on June 28th I banded ten young terns there and one on the Public Service site. There were still many unhatched eggs in some of the nests. On July 4th I banded 21 more young birds and found several hiding in the weeds that had been banded June 28th. On July 15th one more was banded making a total of 33. All the young birds had disappeared, but one nest with three fresh eggs was lined with fresh grass and weeds, apparently a second attempt to nest.

I believe that many of the banded birds got into the air, as during the latter part of July and early August I observed several incidents of young terns flying with the adults, and attempts being made by the adults to feed them in the air. A failure of this attempt would result in the birds landing on the water, and after the transfer of the minnow they would take to the air again.

According to a report from the Fish and Wildlife Service this is the first record of Common Terns nesting in Illinois. I shall endeavor to check on this colony each year. H. E. McArthur, Waukegan, Illinois.

A Case of Polygamy in the American Redstart.—On June 22, 1947 I found a nest of the American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linnaeus), at Credit