

*Correction.*—In the account of birds banded in the Pacific (1945 *Bird-Banding*, 16: 105) the Frigate Bird was erroneously listed as *Fregata magnificens*. It should have been *Fregata minor palmerstoni*. I am indebted to Dr. Robert C. Murphy for calling my attention to this error.—May Thacher Cooke.

### GENERAL NOTES

**A Mallard Thirteen Years Old.**—Information has been received from the Fish and Wildlife Service that a Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus, banded by me on December 4, 1935, in Fulton County, Illinois, was shot November 29, 1948, at Grand Lake, Louisiana, by Robert Myres.—Christian J. Goetz, 3503 Middleton Avenue, Cincinnati 20, Ohio.

**A Common Tern Twenty Years Old.**—A Common Tern which has carried in succession bands A327223, 37-331637 and 48-318113 was banded while a chick at Tern Island, Cape Cod, Massachusetts 4 July 1929. It has been retaken as follows: Billingsgate Island 18 June 1938, Tern Island 18 June 1941, 18 June 1944 and 22 June 1949.—O. L. Austin, Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

**Restesting by the Common Tern.**—When Common Terns lose their eggs or chicks they usually renest the same season. How quickly they may renest is shown by Common Tern 42-317919 whose eggs were broken accidentally when it was trapped incubating at Tern Island 26 June 1944, and which was retrapped incubating on a new nest at Bird Island 31 miles distant only three days later, on 29 June 1944. Although our files contain numerous cases of such second nestings, the first evidence of a third renesting was procured this past season. Common Tern 48-316644 was trapped 13 June 1949 on a nest at Plymouth. On 16 June 1949 it was retrapped on a nest at Tern Island, 30 miles away. Finally on 28 June 1949 it was again retrapped on another nest at Plymouth.—O. L. Austin, Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Cape Cod, Mass.

**King Rail Carries its Young.**—In June 1941 an adult King Rail *Rallus elegans* attending a family of small young was discovered near a drainage ditch in a low-land meadow of Washington township, Monroe County, Indiana. One of the young was captured and kept in captivity for study during the afternoon and evening. The next morning this young bird was returned to the vicinity where it had been captured. I intended to release it among the other young of the brood when they were located. They had not moved far since the previous afternoon and as I approached the adult responded to the cries of the captive. When it left the other young and came to meet me showing evidence of distress I decided to release the captive at a point about twenty-five yards from the rest of the brood. The adult seemed very excited and ran back and forth between the brood and the released captive. In its excitement the adult sometimes picked at the vegetation while calling. Finally, as if in desperation, it picked up the former captive and carried it about fifteen feet. Although this act seemed to have some value in bringing the brood together again the young one was dropped as unceremoniously as it was picked up and at a point no more than half way to the other young. I observed no further attempt to carry the young. While this was a very interesting behaviorism, I believe in this case, it was caused by excitement and cannot be said to be a purposeful act.

Pettingill (Auk, 1938; 411), observed adults of the Clapper Rail repeatedly moving both eggs and young birds under circumstances and in a manner which led him to believe that the acts were intelligent. He states (p. 415), "These rails learned by experience. . . and their behavior was, to my mind, intelligent."—R. A. Johnson, 98 East Street, Oneonta, New York.

**1946—Snowy Owl Migration in Canadian Labrador.**—In view of the interest in the 1945-'46 fall and winter migration of the Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca* (Linnaeus), into New England and the eastern states it seems wise to

report our observations on this species from the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence where Osborne has, as keeper of the St. Mary Islands Sanctuary, made careful observations for many years. On this part of the coast between Harrington Harbor and Cape Whittle a few owls visit every fall. The presence of food in the form of sea birds every year and periodic concentrations of mice on the off shore islands some years (Johnson, 1937, *Canad. Field Nat.*, No. 9) appear to be attractive to owls which are seen about the landscape from the middle of November to about the first of February. The coastal strip of Hudsonian zone type of vegetation may have some consequence in terms of mouse populations. It certainly is an easier place for the owl to prey on the mouse population than the dense thickets of the more inland areas.

In the fall of 1945 the owls came to the Cape Whittle region early and in unusual numbers according to Osborne who observed them at the Sanctuary in November and later at Harrington Harbor. Several local fishermen who related their observations to Osborne give evidence to indicate that the migration was much the same for a considerable distance along that part of the coast. Several owls were shot for human consumption in the vicinity of Harrington Harbor. These were reported to be fat and very palatable. At Harrington Harbor unusual behavior of owls was noted. Several instances were reported of owls being seen in flight coming in from the direction of the sea. The local people believe that such birds attempted to cross the Gulf to Newfoundland but turned back, after a time, toward the mainland. Johnson suggests that these birds may have been on a hunting sortie from some point nearby along the mainland. It seems likely, however, that many owls did cross the Gulf at this point.

At Harrington Harbor owls were seen feeding on Dovekies. Evidences of the killing of Murres and Eiders were also reported. Such data conform with the nature of the supply of food available for daylight feeding. Analysis of pellets collected on the St. Mary Islands (Johnson '37.) and further data from pellets collected by Johnson and Osborne in 1938 (unpublished) shows that Dovekies and Black Guillemots are frequently taken by owls in this region in late fall; but that mice (*Microtus*) when present form the most numerous item of food. Pellets collected in 1938 which had been deposited in 1937 show a higher percentage of predation on birds. Some of these pellets contain remains of Fringillids.

During the last week of November Osborne traveled by train from Quebec City to Montreal. From the window he observed three owls in different localities flying low over marsh land. Perhaps this would indicate that the Owls were moving southward across the St. Lawrence over a wide front during the early part of the winter of 1945-46 and that food scarcity in route was not an impelling factor.—R. A. Johnson, 98 East Street, Oneonta, New York, and Fred Osborne, Harrington Harbor, Saguenay County, Quebec.

**Robin Banding in California.**—The freezing weather of January 1949 brought a "wave" of robins into Solano County (California) beginning January 10 and subsiding about January 25. My eight sparrow-type traps, which I had baited with pyracantha, cottoneaster and toyon berries, all had a real "workout." There were three robins at a time in my government sparrow trap, which was built to catch birds of English Sparrow size. They had to force their way into this trap as the opening is small. A Modesto maze trap which Mr. Irl Rogers made for small birds caught 12 robins, a 2 V-cell trap caught 23. I banded 184 robins during the month, the heaviest dates being 32 on the 16th and 34 on the 20th. In addition we were decidedly pleased to capture and band three Varied Thrushes from the heavy flight of *Turdus*. These less common, black-collared cousins of the robins are not often captured. If we had been prepared with the proper traps and if full time could have been devoted to banding we are sure we could have caught a thousand robins during the two-week period.—Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California.

**The Adoption of a Fledgling Robin.**—On June 1, 1948, a friend brought to me from another section of this city a fledgling Robin, *Turdus migratorius*. Though this is an unwise practice I was forced, however, to keep the bird instead of returning it to its original haunts. The bird seemed able to forage for itself