

trapped with a steel trap using catnip as bait. Once dogs start visiting a banding station it has been the practice to notify their owners, and if they will not agree to keep the animals confined, to close the station.

Hawks will continue to molest trapped birds until the birds either kill themselves or get close enough to the side of the trap so the hawk can strike them with its talons. Marsh Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and Sparrow Hawks are the three more common winged predators encountered in the Southeast.

A variety of other birds are caught in the traps while trapping for doves. Most seed-eating birds, such as cardinals, cowbirds, red-winged blackbirds and sparrows are frequent visitors to traps and when present in numbers, and particularly when individuals become "trap happy," they become a real nuisance. This is especially true in trigger type traps.

Special Information Needed.

All banders are encouraged to be on the lookout for suspected diseased doves. The most important dove disease is *Trichomoniasis*. Advanced stages of the disease may be diagnosed by "canker" or sores around the mouth and head. If dead or sick birds are taken, they should be sent direct to Dr. C. M. Herman, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Refuge, Laurel, Maryland, who is making a special study of this disease.

A complete record of all repeats should be kept. Repeat data tend to inform the trapper when dove concentrations move away and new birds move in. In some instances certain doves may be trapped throughout the year. Such repeats prove that those doves are local residents. One dove was trapped in Alabama as a repeat twenty-three times in a period of thirty-one days. It is common for a few doves to overcome the fear of traps; therefore, the trapper usually looks forward to seeing certain birds in his traps at each visit to the station.

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GENERAL NOTES

Age Record for the Arctic Tern.—An Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea* Brünich, banded A-365164 as an adult at Pamet Point, Truro, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, on June 25, 1929, by O. L. Austin, Jr., was retaken there June 25, 1936, and again at Tern Island, Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, June 22, 1946, when band 42-343100 was affixed to the other tarsus (cf. *Bird-Banding*, 1946, 168). This bird was found freshly dead at Tern Island July 13, 1951, the original band in perfect condition, the second one missing. It was at least 23 years old, probably more, for the species rarely breeds the year after hatching, and only uncommonly the second. It is the oldest tern of any species known to date.

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Wear of Towhee Bands.—Having rebanded three Red-eyed Towhees, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Linnaeus), in the past year because the bands appeared quite worn, it seemed worthwhile to consider how long such a bird could be expected to carry a band.