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.

Dept. of Conservation, Montgomery 4, Ala.,
and Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission,
3105 Cleveland Hgts. Blvd., Lakeland, Fla.

GENERAL NOTES

Age Record for the Arctic Tern.—An Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea* Brünnich, 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.

Oliver L. Austin, Sr., Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Cape Cod, Mass.

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.

The only feasible way to assess the wear accurately is to weigh the bands. The original weights are unknown but the weights of two 48-series and two 502-series size 2 bands shows a variation of 4% in weight. Over the years the bands have differed somewhat in composition and should show appropriate differences in rate of wear. However, of two bands consecutively numbered and exposed for two years (1 day difference in exposure!) one lost 40% less weight than the other. The less worn two-year band and the band exposed three years wore at just the same rate.

How much wear can a band safely stand? Some experience in rebanding adult terns indicates that a loss of two-thirds of the weight is about the limit. On this basis, using the more worn of the two year bands, towhees should be rebanded every five years.

Band Nos.	*Exposure*	*Weight*
.....	none	145 mg.
46-206816	3 years	111 mg.
46-211480	2 years	109 mg.
46-211481	2 years	123 mg.

Charles H. Blake, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

Consistent Movement by Purple Finches Indicated.—A banding station operated by Edgar A. Carrier at 857 Tower Avenue, in Hartford, Conn., is located almost three miles practically due north of our own. During the winter of 1950-51, Purple Finches *(Carpodacus purpureus* Gmelin) visited both stations in goodly numbers. There is no particular significance in the fact that 290 of them were banded at the Carrier station while we banded 415, except to indicate the prevalence of the species. It is noteworthy, however, that eleven of those which we banded went from our station to Mr. Carrier's traps, yet not even one of his birds came to us throughout the entire season.

Although we recognize the somewhat greater mathematical chance of recapture enjoyed by our bandees, it does not seem that that is, in itself, sufficient to explain the unbalanced distribution of the recoveries. There appears to have been a consistent northward drift of the Purple Finch population through Hartford during the winter of 1950-51.—G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Conn.

An Old White-breasted Nuthatch.—A notable old-age record was made with the return to our station, on December 10, 1950, of a White-breasted Nuthatch *(Sitta carolinensis carolinensis* Latham) which had worn band No. 41-161722 ever since November 15, 1942. Originally banded as an adult male this bird had carried our band for almost a month more than eight years. Since the numerals were so impaired as to approach illegibility the band was removed and No. 47-155703 was substituted in order to assure the possible prolongation of this age record.—G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Conn.

Mortality in the Cedar Waxwing.—In his life history of the Cedar Waxwing *(Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot), W. M. Tyler comments: "The Cedar Waxwing has no special enemies, only those that prey commonly on most small birds. In the time of the older ornithologists, however, the bird was shot for food, and the slaughter of great numbers was made easy by their habit of flying in close flocks." (Bent, A. C., *Life Histories of North American Wagtails, Shrikes, Vireos, and Their Allies,* 1950.) The causes of death recorded for this species in the banding files at the Patuxent Research Refuge, based on 721 return cards in file in March 1951, indicate an exception to this general statement. At least 329 of this group of waxwings were shot (45.6%), and some of the 166 (23.0%) reported as found dead were very likely shot. 69 waxwings (9.6%) were reported as retrapped and released, and the percentage of birds shot to the total apart from these 69 is 50.5. Of the remainder of the original 721, cause of death was not given for at least 49. The bulk of the birds were banded in the vicinity of Modesto, Calif., by Messrs. C. H. Feltes and Irl Rogers, and the great majority of the birds shot were in cherry orchards near Modesto. The species can be banded most readily where it occurs in flocks of hundreds or even thousands in fruit-growing areas, and in such areas it may present an economic problem. It would of course be seriously misleading to use these banding results as an indication of heavy shooting of the species elsewhere in its range.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.