

beyond my present aim, yet it is simple and the person who does his own black and white processing will want to try his hand at this, too.

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GENERAL NOTES

Extreme Old Age in Terns.—In *Bird-Banding*, 22: 179 (October, 1951) Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Sr., reported an Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea* Brunnich, banded A-365164 as an adult at Pamet Point, Truro, Mass., on June 25, 1929, by O. L. Austin, Jr., and found recently dead at Tern Island, Chatham, Mass., on July 13, 1951. It was at least 23 years old, probably more, and was felt to be the oldest individual tern (of any species) known to date.

However, Dr. Rudolph Drost has called my attention to a note in *Die Vogelwarte*, 15: 39, of an Arctic Tern banded as a chick in 1920 with a band of the Ornithological Research Station "Vogelwarte Helgoland," on a small island at the mouth of the Elbe River in Germany, and found dead (killed by a cat) near its nest on another island about 20 km. away, in 1947. Dr. Drost believes that this is the oldest recorded individual of any species, in the wild.

Further correspondence brought details of two tern records of great interest, not published previously. It appears that the oldest known banded bird in North America is a Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia imperator* (Coues), number 378622, banded as a juvenile on July 19, 1925, by Frederick C. Lincoln on Little Hat Island in Lake Michigan, 16 miles east of St. James, Michigan. This bird was taken for a scientific specimen on August 9, 1951, by Frank J. Ligas at North Bass Island in Lake Erie, Ottawa County, Ohio, at the age of 26 years.

A Least Tern, *Sterna a. antillarum* (Lesson), number 518547, banded as a fledgling by O. L. Austin, Jr., on July 15, 1929, at Poponesset Point, Cotuit, Mass., was reported as found dead on July 9, 1950, at Sampson's Island, Cotuit, Mass., within a mile of the place of banding. The band was sent in by the finder. While a number of older terns of other species are on record, this is believed to be the oldest Least Tern. The O. L. Austin Ornithological Research Station has in all probability banded 4,000 terns of other species on Cape Cod for every Least Tern banded.

Under the ringing scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, the oldest Arctic Tern known is one banded on July 2, 1934, on the Farne Islands, Northumberland, and recovered there on June 12, 1950. However, the oldest known British tern of any species is a Sandwich Tern, *Sterna sandvicensis* Latham, just over 16 years old. It was banded on July 18, 1931, at Strangford Lough, County Down, Northern Ireland, as a young bird, and recovered dead at Addah, Gold Coast, on October 19, 1947.

By way of comparison, there is a record of a Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus* Pontoppidan, almost 26 years old in Germany (note in *Vogelzug*, 6:134, 1935). The oldest bird known under the British ringing scheme is a Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus* Linnaeus, banded on June 13, 1910, and recovered in May, 1930.

It has not been possible to make an exhaustive check for the oldest birds known under other banding schemes, and I should be grateful for details of any individuals older than Dr. Drost's Arctic Tern.

I am indebted to Dr. Drost for calling this tern to our attention; to Drs. Ernst Schüz and R. Kuhk of Vogelwarte Radolfzell for writing us about this tern and the Herring Gull record; to Mr. Lincoln (now Assistant to the Director, U. S. Fish

and Wildlife Service) for permission to publish details of his bird; to Mr. O. L. Austin, Jr., for details of the Least Tern recovery and permission to publish them; to Mr. Seth H. Low of the Banding Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for details of the Caspian Tern and confirmation that it was the oldest bird in his files; and to Miss Elsie P. Leach, Hon. Secretary of the Bird-Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology, for a listing of old terns and the Black-headed Gull (each of which had appeared in *British Birds*), and confirmation that no older birds were contained in her files.—E. Alexander Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford 7, Conn.

Mourning Dove in Nova Scotia.—Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., in his excellent article, "The Mourning Dove on Cape Cod" (*Bird-Banding*, Vol. 22, No. 4, October, 1951), mentions one recovery of rather unusual interest. He states, "An immature not long out of the nest when banded August 25, 1950, and which never repeated, was found dead October 28, 1950, at Mabou, Inverness County, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia." The bird was reported to have been fat and probably dead only a short time.

Although in my discussion with him Dr. Austin preferred to adopt a neutral position in the matter, the history of weather conditions at the time appears worthy of recording. Examination of the daily weather maps issued as of 1.30 a.m., E. S. T., by the U. S. Department of Commerce shows that the map for September 12, 1950, carried a printed Hurricane Warning. The storm center was 85 miles east of Nantucket. Winds of 100 miles per hour prevailed at the storm-center. Hurricane winds prevailed over a radius of 100 miles and gale winds extended the radius another 100 miles. The map itself showed a Beaufort Scale reading of 10 (55 miles to 63 miles per hour) for the wind at the Nantucket lightship.

At 1.30 p.m. the storm-center was at approximately 40° North Latitude, 65° West Longitude, as shown on the small insert map on the daily map for September 13. This small map, unfortunately, does not indicate wind velocities, but does cover a wider portion of the Atlantic Ocean than appears on the major map. The storm had moved off the area covered by the major map. At 1.30 p.m. on September 13 the storm had moved easterly, the center being at about 40° North Latitude, 60° West Longitude.

Although not conclusive, this storm situation does provide a reasonable hypothesis for the occurrence of the mourning dove at Mabou. Lending support to the theory is the weather pattern which existed prior to December 13, 1949, on which date a northern clapper rail, the fifth known record for the state, was obtained near West Waldoboro, Maine. I have discussed this in detail, *Bulletin of the Maine Audubon Society*, Vol. 6, No. 2, April, 1950, Page 29. Mr. James Bond reported a sixth record, *l.c.*, Vol. 7, No. 1, January, 1951, Page 14. A bird was procured near Southwest Harbor in August, 1950, the exact date being unknown. It is at least worth mention, however, that on August 21, 1950, a hurricane was approximately 125 miles east of Nantucket with winds of 100 miles per hour extending 80 miles outward from the center.

Cumulatively over a period of years, the relation of storms to occurrences of an accidental or casual nature may become more evident than is apparent at this time when the total available information is scanty.—Wendell Taber, 3 Mercer Circle, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Chimney Swift Returns at Kent, Ohio, in 1951.—The pattern of annual returns of banded Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica* (Linnaeus), on the campus of Kent State University over a period of five years was reported in the *Bull. Ecol. Soc. Amer.* (30(4): 51. 1949). Returns in 1950 were briefly summarized in the *Inland Bird Banding News* (23(1): 4. 1951). The returns obtained in 1951 are analyzed here. A total of 45 Chimney Swifts banded in previous years were recaptured. Of these, 14 were males, 15 were females, and 16 have not yet had the sex determined. The number returning from each year's banding was as follows: 1944(6); 1945(1); 1946(1); 1947(5); 1948(9); 1949(10); 1950(13). Thirty of the returning birds nested in the air shafts of four university buildings, each of the 15 pairs residing in a separate air shaft. Three pairs had the same mates and nested in the same shaft as in 1950. Nine birds nested in the same shaft as in 1950 but with a change of mate. Seven had a change of both mate