

handled net of "butterfly" type, but larger, and the other a casting net with weighted edges, such as is used for fishing in shallow water. Most of the victims are migratory waders from the northern hemisphere, but the catch includes also various resident species.

The birds spend the night in groups around such wet places as rice fields and they become so somnolent that they are not easily alarmed. The fowlers find their prey by means of the flashlights, which do not disturb the birds. They can approach quietly and bring down the nets over an entire huddle. The victims are taken to Manila in basket cages such as that shown in the accompanying photograph. They are kept alive in order to prevent putrefaction, which takes place rapidly in most dead Limicolae. Early in the morning they are strung on raffia by the legs and peddled to motorists along Dewey Boulevard. Usually the last example is sold by the middle of the forenoon, and the motoring populace seems to be well informed regarding the relative delicacy of the several species for the table.

Other visiting ornithologists and I talked with three of the bird-catchers, whose nightly bag at that season averaged fifty or more apiece. The list I made of the species has been checked and extended by Dr. D. L. Serventy, of Australia, and Dr. R. A. Falla, of New Zealand, both of whom purchased a variety of specimens and prepared them as study skins. The tally of 16 species follows. Since I made no exact count, the list indicates no more than approximate ratios.

<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>		1
<i>Anas crecca</i>		1
<i>Amaurornis olivacea</i>		1
<i>Rallus philippensis</i>		1
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1 adult, several young	
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	120 on three strings	
<i>Tringa ocropus</i>	Several	
<i>Erolia subminuta</i>	Several dozen	
<i>Erolia minutilla</i>	Several	
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Several	
<i>Gallinago megala</i>	25 or more	
<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Several	
<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Several	
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Numerous	
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus dealbatus</i>	Numerous	
<i>Charadrius dominicus fulvus</i>	A few	

Relatively few snipe and plover have been banded in the United States, at least when compared with ducks, gulls, etc. It seems likely that the Philippine method of nocturnal capture might work quite as well for us on salt-meadows and other marshy areas during the southward migration of latter summer.

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#### GENERAL NOTES

**The Nesting of the Common Tern at Montezuma.**—A new nesting locality for the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) was reported recently by Sherwood (1954. *Wilson Bull.*, 66(2): 145). Mention was made of a nest found at the Montezuma Marsh in 1953. To supplement this reporting the following observations are offered.

In connection with a muskrat research project, considerable time was spent on the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca County, N. Y., during the summer of 1948. The Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) was abundant and a few Common Terns were seen in a small section of the marsh surrounding a group of marl islands. Their presence among the many Black Terns and their association with this small area was very striking.

During the summer of 1949, the Common Tern seemed more abundant but was still confined to the vicinity of the small marl islands. Several of these islands were visited with Professor LeRoy C. Stegeman of the State University College of Forestry on June 9. Tern nests were found and photographed. Common Terns scolded overhead during the visit and landed at the nests after our departure.

On June 18, 1951, the marl islands were examined and two Common Tern nests were found. The nests were photographed and screens of one-quarter-inch hardware cloth, one foot high and two feet in diameter, were placed around them. The screens were used in an attempt to hold the young, when hatched, in the vicinity of the nest so that they could be successfully banded at the next visit. It was felt that a screen of this size would hold the young and still not interfere with the incubating or brooding activities of the adults. No Black Tern nests were found on the islands.

The following day, June 19, Black Tern nests were found in the bur-reed marsh community surrounding Goose Pond and two young were found in the water. They were photographed and banded (No. 241001 and 2) while the adults hovered overhead.

On June 20, a third Common Tern nest containing one egg was screened. In addition, screens were placed around three Black Tern nests in the bur-reed marsh. These were in a straight line, spaced eight feet between the first and second, and 12 feet between the second and third. They contained two, two and one eggs respectively. Later in the day two more Black Tern chicks were found in the marsh and banded (Nos. 241003 and 4). The adults were seen landing beside them soon afterwards.

When the three Black Tern nests that had been screened two days before were revisited on June 22, two of them contained an additional egg, now totaling two, three and two respectively. This would indicate that the screens were not interfering with the birds' activities. No. 241003 was found in the same locality as when banded.

On July 7 the eggs in the first nest screened on June 18 were hatching. Two eggs were completely hatched and the third was pipped. Assistance was given the last chick and the three were banded (No. 339826, 7, and 8). The young were photographed and the screen removed. The island was observed from a short distance and the adult Common Tern soon landed among the chicks. On this same day, the three Black Tern nests located in a row were found molested. The first now contained one crushed egg, the second no eggs, and the third two unharmed eggs. The screens had been dragged into the marsh. All screens were removed and no further observations were made in 1951.

In 1952 Mr. William L. Wylie made several observations on the Common Tern while studying waterfowl. In visits to the area, the Common Tern seemed to be frequenting a greater portion of the marsh.

In 1953 another graduate student, Mr. Frederick C. Dean, and his wife discovered a Common Tern nest along the southwestern edge of the Main Pool. This was during the week of June 21. It was located on a small hummock, possibly the remains of an old muskrat house. It was rechecked on July 7 with no sign remaining of eggs, young, or adults.

The marl islands, which were quite sizable when constructed in 1939 and the marsh flooded in 1942, have gradually become reduced in size from settling and the action of waves, ice, and muskrats. At the present time about one half are below the surface of the water and the remainder are small. Now that the Common Tern has become a regular summer resident on the area, it will be of interest to observe their presence as the islands become further reduced.

It is hoped that the above observations will be of help in establishing this as part of the regular breeding range of the Common Tern.—Maurice M. Alexander, State University of New York, College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York.