

rough-winged swallows flew out of the same tunnel to the inside of a mist net near Union Lake, Oakland County, Michigan. This was a positive identification as I was still adjusting the net as the four birds flew out of a single tunnel and became pocketed.—Walter P. Nickell, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Returns on Aged Cardinal.—On 17 April 1934 Mr. Victor H. Cahalane, director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, banded a female Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) near the museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. This bird returned to the same banding traps eight times in more than ten years. On three of these eight returns she was accompanied by three different unbanded males. On four occasions she was captured alone and on one, she was captured with the same male which had been her companion of about a year before. On her last appearance 15 November 1944, she was at least 11 1/2 years old. This may be the second oldest cardinal recorded. Frederick C. Lincoln in *Migration of American Birds*, 1939 (p. 138) lists a cardinal fully thirteen years old when last seen. Two others were ten and nine years old respectively.

Band Number: 34-206915

Date Banded: 17 April 1934

<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>With Male</i>	<i>Alone</i>
11 May 1937	36-210498	
30 April 1939		X
12 May 1939	37-164915	
11 April 1940	37-210450	
30 April 1941	37-210450	
26 December 1941		X
18 November 1943		X
15 November 1944		X

—Walter P. Nickell, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Nine-year-old Chickadee.—On July 17, 1954, a Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) was given band number 22-52697 at my station here in Groton, Mass. It has returned every year, except 1962, since then, the last date being October, 1963. Thus this little fellow must be at least nine years and four months old, which I think must be a pretty good age record for a chickadee.—William P. Wharton, Groton, Mass. *Ed. note:* this is the oldest bird of this species I know of. One which reached 9 years, 1 month and 14 days is reported in *The Ring*, 34: 180; one of 8 years and 4 months in *EBBA News* for October, 1945; and one of 7 years and 8 months in *Bird-Banding*, 21: 17. Has any reader an older Chickadee?

A Local Population of Blue Jays in Connecticut.—Miss Nunneley's paper (in this issue) has prompted a look at my own banding of Blue Jays in West Hartford, Conn. In the period from May, 1954, through March, 1963, 406 were banded. While this sample has the advantage of a longer time span than the Granby sample discussed by Miss Nunneley, the total number of birds is less. The birds also represent much more erratic banding, often with no jays banded for months on end. Most of my jay banding is a byproduct of something else, such as the banding of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and Common Grackles, with a large battery of single-cell traps. These traps are often idle from August to late fall, and at other times may be idle because of business or other trips, illness, or the pressure of other work. This illustrates how even at stations with fairly substantial numbers banded overall, it may be dangerous to use the fluctuations in even a fairly stable species as evidence of an actual fluctuation in the population. For reasons outlined by Miss Nunneley, the Blue Jay is not as simple a species to pin down status changes for as it may first appear. Any discussion of the problem, such as her division of records by season, necessarily involves some assumptions, and some rather arbitrary divisions. Trying to get around these problems completely by studying a small population intensively breaks