which continues as the tag. The alula feathers did not all molt at the same time from the birds used in the preliminary tests, therefore at least one feather was always observable. None of the experimental gulls have reached adult plumage and the possibility of a color change has not yet been determined.

The successful use of this tag in the gull illustrates the potential usefulness of the technique in wildlife studies. This marking technique, which is an old one to the experimental embryologist, would be applicable to studies of most wild bird species and can be extended to include mammalian pelage grafting.

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GENERAL NOTES

Cedar Waxwing Response to Mirror. In October 1964 I acquired a Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) with an injured wing. The wing was not broken but the bird couldn't fly so I put it in a cage. The waxwing had no difficulty in manoeuvering about in the cage and after about a week I opened the door to see if the waxwing could fly. It sat in the doorway and soon took off but flew only a few feet before falling to the floor. Every few days I would test its ability to fly as I was anxious to release it as soon as possible. The day came when the bird was able to fly quite well and this time it flew straight across the room and landed on the parakeet's cage. This cage is a large, home-made one measuring 18" x 22" x 30" high. Since it appeared as though the waxwing wanted to enter the parakeet's cage I decided to open the door and see what would happen. In a surprisingly short time the waxwing flew to the open doorway and then in to the nearest perch.

Once inside it flew from perch to perch, looked into both mirrors and settled down in front of one of them. In fact, it showed a great deal of interest in the mirror: it sidled up to it, "talked" or "sang" to it, nudged it, "danced" in front of it, raised and lowered its crest and at times literally shrieked at the mirror which suggested to me the calling together of the flock. Without doubt the waxwing was interested in its reflection in the morror.

Earlier the waxwing had shown a preference for the fruit of red cedar so I put whole branches of cedar laden with fruit in a jar of water right in the cage, therefore when the waxwing moved into the parakeet's cage I put the cedar in there as it showed no signs of going back to the smaller cage for food. However, it got to the point where I was bringing in larger branches, too large to go in the cage conveniently so I placed them in a vase outside. The waxwing flew out to eat and then went back in again to perch near the mirror.

Meanwhile the parakeet barely tolerated the waxwing and soon took to leaving the cage for most of the day. The bad feature about this was that it began chewing the lampshades and the woodwork. It soon became evident that something would have to be done for I wanted the waxwing to be free to come and go whereas the parakeet would have to be confined. Therefor I converted a cage that had been used for small mammals into an arrangement as near like the parakeet's cage as possible, with two mirrors and two perches in similar locations. This cage measured 15" x 16 1/2" x 20 1/2" high and was placed right next to the parakeet's cage. By placing the cedar branches in front of this cage and a dish of blueberries inside and closing the door of the parakeet's cage the waxwing soon entered this new cage and took up residence there. The door was never closed and many times during the day the waxwing would fly to the door of the parakeet's cage showing that it still preferred that one but since it couldn't get in would go back to its own cage and "sing" to the bird in the mirror.—Edith Andrews, Quaise, Nantucket, Mass.

Slate-Colored Junco Response to Mirror.—In October 1964 I held a junco (*Junco hyemalis*) with a dislocated leg for about two weeks. At first I kept it in my largest unused cage but then I needed this for something else so I put the junco in a smaller cage. The smaller cage happened to have a mirror in it and it wasn't long before I noticed that the mirror had a quieting effect on the junco. The bird would sit on the perch next to the mirror with its head turned slightly toward the mirror for hours. It hardly left this spot even to go and eat and appeared to be smitten with its own image Actually, the junco showed almost no restlessness when in the cage with the mirror, except when I disturbed it to add food and water, whereas there had been considerable hopping from perch to perch when in the cage without the mirror.—Edith Andrews, Quaise, Nantucket, Mass.

A Social Flight of the Laughing Gull.—While engaged in a coastal banding project on Little Beach Island, Atlantic County, New Jersey, I observed what appeared to be an evening social flight of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*).

Little Beach Island is located about nine miles northeast of Atlantic City. It is roughly half-moon shaped, arcing for 3 1/2 miles from the west toward the east and then down to the south. One and a half miles of the island front on the Atlantic Ocean. Behind the oceanfront lie tangles of poison ivy, bayberry, and other plants characteristic of stabilized dunes. This vegetation merges into salt marsh on the bay side. On the northeast side of the island is an extensive cove which opens into Little Egg Inlet. Laughing Gulls nest in the western, salt march portion of the island.

At 5:30 P. M. (EDT) on 23 September 1962, during a respite in my banding activities, I was sitting on the southwest shore of the cove about half a mile from the ocean. A light wind from the east during the afternoon had subsided to almost calm. The sky was clear. Over the marshes about a mile north of my position, I noted 25 to 30 Laughing Gulls milling about in a compact flock. Other Laughing Gulls were flying directly toward the flock from various directions, particularly from the ocean. Both adults and birds of the year were involved. The entire flock, which soon numbered between 200 and 250 birds, was slowly moving as a unit along the southwest shore of the cove toward me. The birds maintained a tight formation, roughly spherical in shape, but were wildly flying and soaring about within it. As the flight passed over me, I noted that the flock was centered about 125 feet above the ground and that the birds were absolutely silent.

There was no indication that the gulls were feeding on insects, nor did the flight resemble the loose, circling flocks of Laughing Gulls, which did seem to be feeding on insects, that I have seen on other occasions elsewhere along this coast. The noteworthy characteristics of the flight reported here were the confined space within which the gulls were flying, the intensity of their movement and the relatively straight-line course along which the flock moved as a unit.

By 6:20 P. M. (EDT) the swirling mass of gulls reached the oceanfront and after hovering there for several minutes began to disperse. Within a few minutes, the flock formation had disappeared. The individual birds headed in different directions except toward the ocean.

The next evening a steady northeast wind was blowing and the sky was overcast. Laughing Gulls were in the same vicinity, but a repeat of the previous evening's flight was not observed.