

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.

Thomas S. Roberts reported almost identical flight behavior in the Franklin's Gull (*L. pipixcan*) in Minnesota (in Bent, U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 113: 174). The Minnesota flights took place between 9:00 A. M. and 10:00 A. M. on 5 October, and involved several gyrating flocks simultaneously. Otherwise, Roberts's description is similar to those presented here for the Laughing Gull.

I have not been able to locate reports of this flight behavior in other species of *Larus*. It is interesting to note this similarity of behavior in *L. atricilla* and *L. pipixcan*, two species which are considered to be very closely related. I thank B. G. Murray, Jr., for helpful suggestions during the preparation of this note.—Robert C. Frohling, Deerfield, Illinois.

Twig in Abdomen of a Blackpoll Warbler.—On 29 September 1965, an unusual Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) was captured and banded at Round Hill, Sudbury, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. The bird was judged to be an adult male by skull ossification and plumage and weighed 11.7 grams, with a wing length (chord) of 75 mm. It appeared normal except for a small twig (1 mm. diameter; 25 mm. long) impaled through the skin of its lower abdomen. While the center of the twig was subcutaneous, both ends protruded above the skin, like a needle stitched through cloth. Although the puncture wounds had healed, the twig was easily removed by clipping off one end close to the body and pulling the other out from under the skin.

The literature contains numerous records of diverse traumata encountered by small birds but this curious form of injury has apparently not been reported. Michener and Michener (*Condor* 38: 102-109. 1936) state that among the 30,000 passerines they examined, injuries of the sides and abdomen were rarely seen, probably because of their usually fatal outcome.—Deborah V. Howard, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773.

Recovered health of a Screech Owl.—On 8 February, 1966, I got a phone call from a neighbor who asked if I was interested in a screech owl (*Otus asio*). I retrieved the owl which had been caught in the neighbor's garage. It seemed to be weak although its behaviour was not markedly different from the few screech owls I have handled. The principal difference was that when it closed its claws on my hand, they did not penetrate the flesh.

On close examination of the owl I found a band. Reference to my files indicated that I had caught the same owl in mist nets on 1 October 1957 and again in the bell tower of a nearby building on 8 February, 1958. I had weighed the owl in 1958 and was glad that I had for it gave me some perspective on the state of health of the bird. In 1958 the owl had weighed 170 grams. On the eighth of February it weighed 153.4 grams. I was not sure what had caused the loss of weight. There had been a lot of snow on the ground for the weeks preceding the capture.

I began to force feed the owl with kidney. For five days the owl retained all I fed it and gained about 15 grams. Then it began to reject the food and its weight dropped. I switched its diet to liver. The owl continued to regurgitate the food but began to pick up some of what it threw up, some time later.

After consulting with local veterinarians, I began giving the owl pteramycin. I squirted one gram into the back of the owl's mouth with a hypodermic syringe each morning. I discontinued force feeding and left strips of liver in a dish in the owl's cage.

In the next few days the owl showed a dramatic change. It became lively in the cage, especially at night. Its grip improved until the last three days of its captivity when its claws easily penetrated my skin. It was able to fly very well late in its convalescence (on the first day the bird had lurched off my desk and glided to the floor without any effort to fly).

On 24 February I released the owl. It weighed 193.4 grams.—Peter Rhoades Mott, Middlesex School, Concord, Mass.

A Method for Trapping Cormorants.—In 1965, while studying the social behavior of Pelagic Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*), I devised a way to capture these cliff-nesting birds for color-ringing. I used single spring Oneida Victor No. 1 steel traps with plain jaws. The jaws were padded with a one-half-inch-thick wrapping of masking tape to avoid injuring trapped birds. A length of strong cord tied to the spring of each trap was used to anchor the trap to a stone or other heavy or stationary object. One to three traps were set on the edge of the