GENERAL NOTES

Band Wear in Stilt Sandpipers -- A Warning. While studying the biology of shorebirds at Churchill, Manitoba, in 1966, I noticed that many Fish and Wildlife aluminum bands placed on Stilt Sandpipers (*Micropalama himantopus*) in 1965 showed extreme deterioration. Although the bands were not noticeably thinner than new bands, nearly all were highly discolored, some were heavily pitted, several had holes corroded entirely through the metal, and one was completely illegible. When removed, the worn bands snapped in two, and often small fragments crumbled away. No abnormal wear was evident in bands of some other species (Semipalmated Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*; Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*; Red-backed Sandpiper, *Calidris alpina*; Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*) that were retrapped up to two years after the original banding.

In an effort to reduce band wear in 1966, I banded many Stilt Sandpipers above the tibiotarsal joint, but recoveries in 1967 indicated that this method failed to reduce wear significantly. In all, bands on eight of 19 birds had to be replaced after only one year of wear.

The cause of this extreme wear can only be surmised. The corrosive effects of salt water can be eliminated for two reasons: 1) the interval between banding and recovery is too short, and 2) Stilt Sandpipers, unlike Red-backed Sandpipers and Semipalamated Plovers, tend to avoid salt water habitats. In migration, however, Stilt Sandpipers frequent stagnant ponds and actually seem to prefer those in which sewage is discharged. The high acidity of these ponds is sufficient to account for the observed corrosion.

My studies indicate that even though the bands of some returning birds were badly eroded, it is unlikely that any band loss occurred in the first year. It is obvious, however, that many bands must be lost between the first and second year. Banders who capture large numbers of Stilt Sandpipers or who may intend prolonged studies of this interesting species should plan to use anodized bands. The use of standard aluminum bands is almost pointless and should be discontinued.—Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112.

Longevity Record for a Breeding Great Frigatebird.—On 15 June 1968 on Jarvis Island (0°23′S. 160° 01′ W.), Line Islands, we captured an incubating female Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) wearing band number 39-722380. The band, which was clearly legible and not badly worn, had been placed on the bird by James E. A. Kinney, one of the colonists who banded birds on the American equatorial islands for George C. Munro. Five hundred and eleven frigatebirds were banded on Jarvis from August 1938 through May 1940, but this is the only one recaptured during six surveys made by personnel of the Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program (POBSP).

This frigatebird, banded as an adult on 3 or 4 August 1939, must be nearly 34 years old, since unpublished POBSP data indicate that this species takes at least five years to reach maturity. This bird is, thus, one of the oldest to be recaptured in the wild. No other longevity records for frigatebirds have been reported.

We are grateful to the Hawaii Audubon Society for permission to publish this record.—Roger B. Clapp and C. Douglas Hackman, Paper Number 47, Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560.

Blue Jays and Blueberries.—While making bird damage assessments on highbush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*, various cultivated varieties) at Glastonbury, Connecticut during the summer of 1968, an opportunity was afforded to capture relatively large numbers of various bird species, including the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Interest concerning the Blue Jay relative to the apple has previously been reported (Mitterling, L. A. 1968. Bird-Banding 39: 23-31). Continuation of the above research relates to obtaining a breeding population. Therefore, captured Blue Jays were placed in a holding cage used for raising fledglings (Mitterling, L. A. 1967. Bird-Banding 38: 77-78). Four Blue Jays currently "Second Year" (or Sub-adult) birds had been raised from nestlings and