GENERAL NOTES

Aberrant feather condition in a White-winged Junco.—On 7 January 1973, we examined a White-winged Junco (*Junco hyemalis aikeni*) that manifested an aberrant feather condition. Growing from amidst the body contour feathers on the junco's right side was a single flight (primary or secondary) feather. By probing, we could feel a firm lump from which the shaft projected. The distal portion of this flight feather was broken off. The remaining portion was 2.8 cm in length and 1.3 cm in width. The feather emerged from the side of the body at a point 2 cm below the shoulder joint.

After recording the above data, we released this White-winged Junco with band number 75-20589. On 10 March 1973, Baylor recaptured this bird, and the aberrant feather was present in the same condition as it was at the initial observation.

In the course of our banding nearly 2,000 White-winged Juncos during the previous 17 years, as well as our banding many individuals of other species, we had never before encountered a bird with such a feather formation. In discussion with us, Dr. Leland Johnson, Professor of Biology at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, speculated that a subcutaneous tumor could have been the source of this abnormal feather growth. Whatever the cause and because the special literature on abnormal feather occurrences is not available to us, we share this account for its general interest and for possible use by investigators of peculiar feather growth.—L. M. Baylor, *South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, South Dakota* 57701; and N. R. Whitney, Jr., 633 *S. Berry Pine Road, Rapid City, South Dakota* 57701. Received 18 March 1974, accepted 1 April 1974.

A note on aerial courtship of Red-tailed Hawks.—On 20 April 1974 while in a clearcut on the Jefferson National Forest in Montgomery County near Blacksburg, Virginia, I observed an unusual addition to the normal courtship flight of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). The openness of the clearcut afforded me a clear view of the ridge of Sinking Creek Mountain above which I watched courtship behavior of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. The hawks, especially the smaller (probably the male), performed the typical dives and ascents as they swirled in a thermal. As the larger of the two, the female, left the thermal and started soaring southwesterly along the ridge, the male slowly approached the female from above. When the male was about one foot directly over her, he extended his legs and momentarily touched and grasped the back of the female. The contact lasted about two seconds after which both birds, apparently finding another thermal, spiraled to three times their original height; then, with the female following the male, they disappeared from sight in the trees on the next ridge.

Although the male hawk's tail was depressed during the contact I observed, the female did not respond by raising her tail, thus coition did not occur. The observation suggests the possibility of aerial copulation, but wind currents would probably lessen the chance of successful contact. It is more probable that attempted aerial copulation is an infrequent component of courtship and possibly precedes normal copulatory behavior in trees.

Summer (Bent, 1937, *U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 167) noted that the male of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks seemed to touch the back of its mate on four occasions. —Richard N. Conner, *Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia* 24061. Received 30 April 1974, accepted 10 June 1974.

Longevity record for the Arctic Tern.—On 19 June 1970 an Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) bearing band 35.325864 was trapped at its nest on Petit Manan Island, Maine and then released after rebanding. It had been banded as a chick nearly 34 years earlier in the same colony (then on the adjacent island). The bird weighed 119 g and appeared to be in excellent condition despite having had a broken bill. The upper mandible had an old break and was about 8 mm shorter than the lower mandible.

The band (which was removed) showed few signs of wear and appeared to be unexpectedly heavy. It later transpired that, although bands from the same 100 had been used in 1936, the Bird Banding Laboratory had no record of this band being applied to a bird. Accordingly, I considered this recovery of uncertain