

Yvonne A. Greichus ("Care and Behavior of Penned Double-crested Cormorants," Auk 89: 644-650, 1972) for birds suffering from aspergillous infections of the lungs. Therefore, on the morning of July 13, I treated the thrasher with a subcutaneous injection of 0.50 cc terramycin (oxytetracycline HCL) diluted with 3 parts water and placed it in its exercise cage. Unfortunately, I was not able to bring the bird in until 11:00 p.m., and, at this time, I found that the bird had been killed by a predator of some sort. The head was protruding through the one cm square wire mesh. The occipital region of the skull was crushed and the skin on the neck was torn. A domestic cat was seen in the area on several successive days.

Consequently, a planned series of experiments to obtain quantitative data on the food habits of this species and further information on the interesting behavior of a specimen completely lacking in fear of man had to be abandoned.

Biology Department  
University of Montevallo  
Montevallo, Alabama 35115

#### BANDERS' CORNER

James V. Peavy, Jr.

One of the highlights of my winter's banding occurred when a flock of Lapland Longspurs appeared at the Old Courtland Airfield. Records show that, in the past, very large flocks (up to 1000 birds) have been seen at Courtland, but in recent years, various observers have not been able to locate them. However, this year Bob Reid and Greg Jackson visited the airfield and found a "few" birds. When I learned of the birds' presence, I decided to go up and look for them, as I had seen only one in my life. So, on the morning of February 24, 1975, accompanied by Ted Weems, I set out for North Alabama.

To a person who lives in the densely-wooded, hilly Jefferson County, the vastness of open, flat Courtland Airfield is staggering. To look out over hundreds of acres of short grass, concrete and plowed cotton fields and think of looking for a ground-dwelling bird that looks like grass seems hopeless. Add to this the fact that it was snowing and the wind was blowing at 25 to 35 mph, and you will understand our lack of enthusiasm. To shorten this tale of woe, suffice to say we found the birds, at least 150, in a burned-over grass patch between runways. I would like to say it was our great skill and intimate understanding of bird behavior which made it possible, but that just isn't so. We found them quite by accident when a Horned Lark I was watching ran off the runway and stood in a patch of grass; he was surrounded by longspurs. Finding the birds, however, was only the beginning.

It is never easy to catch birds in an open field on a windy day. As Ted and I were putting up my mist nets, they began to freeze; they were damp because my previous banding effort had been terminated by a rainstorm. When the moisture froze, it turned white, making the nets highly visible, but my fears about the birds seeing the nets were eased because the wind was so strong that it quickly evaporated the ice. The wind, however, was our biggest obstacle. As birds hit the net, they would simply bounce out again. In spite of this, as the sun set, Ted and I had succeeded in catching, banding and photographing fifteen Lapland Longspurs.

While banding new birds is always fun, it is particularly exciting to hear about a bird banded earlier. This summer I received a notice from the banding office informing me that one of the Purple Finches banded at Collirene on February 3, 1974, (see Alabama Birdlife, Vol. 22, p. 9), had been recovered by another bander in Schenectady, New York. So far, this is the only bird recovered of the 443 banded on that date.