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An Apparent Longevity Record for the Black Noddy

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shower with the curtain closed. I'd go down and feed it, turn the water on and clean up the mess. (My wife, being selfish, wouldn't let it walk around the house leaving its "calling cards.") Anyway, the boy was just getting comfortable when our gull stuck its head out through the curtains to see if it was feeding and cleaning time. With that, we all heard a sonic boom. "Ye gods — a pelican, a pelican — I'm being attacked by a pelican." The drummer came streaking through the house, clutching his jeans!

Putting up bird houses can be hazardous or hilarious, depending on the point of view. From my point, it was hard to accept the problem that followed. As I reached to hook up the bird house, one foot on the stepladder and one on the windowsill, something moved and I ended up in a juniper bush, on my back unable to move. "Help!" I croaked. "Look, look, a Bald Eagle has landed," one of my daughters said, as she ran to get her mother. "You and the birds again," was all she said.

Yes, birds have created some problems, some fun and lots of interest around the neighborhood. I don't know what I'd do without them.

¹Cartoon credit: Harry Mandell, Art Supervisor, Board of Education of Allegany County (Md.)

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An apparent longevity record for the Black Noddy

George A. Jobanek

On 13 December 1972, while assisting Dr. Harvey I. Fisher with his research on Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*) longevity, I captured an incubating Black Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*) from its nest on Sand Island, Midway Atoll, Hawaiian Leeward Islands. This bird (662-05366) had been banded on Sand Island on 15 February 1964 by Eugene Kridler. The interval between banding and my capture is eight years, ten months. Since Mr. Kridler listed its age as at least one year old when banded, this individual was no less than nine years, ten months old when recaptured. No attempts were made to sex the bird, either by Mr. Kridler at the time of banding or by myself.

Apparently this is a longevity record for this

species; correspondence with Mr. Kridler and Roger B. Clapp could reveal no older records. However, this age is nowhere near the maximum attainable. Brown and Robertson, Jr. (*Bird-Banding*, 46:250-251, 1975) list two Brown Noddies (*Anous stolidus*) over twenty years of age, one twenty-five years old. Thus, Brown Noddies — and most certainly Black Noddies — share with other terns the ability to live long lives.

I would like to thank Eugene Kridler and Roger B. Clapp for providing much information. My stay on Midway was made possible through the U.S. Office of Education and the Explorers Club of New York.

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