

(ii) Ad Greater Sandplovers trapped at pre-migration time.

(iii) Symbol 8 - feathers in good condition but definitely not moulted recently.

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AN INTERESTING RETRAP

H.T. Laycock

A first year female Thick-billed Weaver was trapped and ringed in my garden on 21 September 1976. At that time all its major feathers were brown as is normal in females of this species. The bird was retrapped at the same place in November 1977, November 1978, November 1979 and on 17 July 1981 (five years all but 66 days from ringing). Every time it was retrapped the sixth primary in the right wing was exactly like that of a male bird, a vivid black and white, very conspicuous against the otherwise brown plumage. On the last occasion the feather appeared undamaged and had obviously been replaced not long before at the bird's annual post-nuptial moult. One wonders why one feather follicle should behave in this way throughout the bird's life.

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