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# Notes on the banding of Emberizidae: Parulinae *Seiurus* species in southeastern Arizona

Philip M. Walters

The three members of the genus *Seiurus* are unusual in Arizona. Monson and Phillips (1981. Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Arizona. Second Edition. The University of Arizona Press) state that the Louisiana Waterthrush (*S. motacilla*) is "a very sparse transient and winter resident from the Huachuca Mountains west to the Pajaritos Mountains" and that the Northern Waterthrush (*S. novaboracensis*) a "rather uncommon transient throughout state, along streams and in areas of damp ground." They report "About 35 records, all for May-June, Sept.-Oct., and Dec.-Jan." for the Ovenbird (*S. aurocapillus*).

For the period of 1977-1981, the total banded in the Arizona-New Mexico region of each of these species recorded in the Annual Reports of the Western Bird Banding Association, (1978-1982, No. Am. Bird Bander 2), was: Ovenbird: 2, Northern Waterthrush: 14, and Louisiana Waterthrush: 1.

It then seems an unusual coincidence to mist-net and band a different member of this genus in each of the summers of 1980, 1981, and 1982 at the same banding station. This station is at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch in the foothills of the Rincon Mountains east of Tucson. The habitat does not seem particularly conducive for attracting these species. The banding station is in the saguaro belt with mesquite, acacia, and prickly pear common. It includes a pond with an adjacent growth of mature cottonwoods. It is also bordered by the Tanque

Verde Wash which is dry except for short periods following heavy rains or melting snow in the nearby mountains.

The rarest of the genus in southeastern Arizona, the Louisiana Waterthrush (930-92134), was banded on 31 July 1980. (Monson and Phillips, 1981); (Walters, 1981. No. Am. Bird Bander 4:169). This individual was the first to be banded in the Western Bird Banding Association area.

On 10 September 1981, a Northern Waterthrush (930-92466) was mist-netted and banded. Age: HY (by skulling). Sex: unknown. Weight: 18.4 g. Wing chord: 74 mm. Tail: 54 mm. Exposed culmen: 13 mm. Tarsus: 22 mm.

The final member of the genus, the Ovenbird (930-92705), was banded on 24 June 1982. Age: AHY (by skulling). Sex: unknown. Weight: 18.9 g. Wing chord: 71 mm. Tail: 52 mm.

None of these 3 individuals was recaptured, nor its recovery recorded. None was seen, or heard calling, after being released. In the case of the Ovenbird, a concerted search in the immediate area by two skilled observers on 25 and 26 June 1982, using taped calls of the Ovenbird, failed.

I presume that all 3 of the banded individuals were transients.

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