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## Significant Encounters

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# SIGNIFICANT ENCOUNTERS

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The following records are presented to highlight interesting recoveries and recaptures that have resulted from banding projects. We hope the reports show how different banders are using the data generated from their projects. Some of the records here, such as the longevities, may be significant advances in our knowledge. For a listing of longevity records verified by the Bird Banding Laboratory, see the papers cited in Klimkiewicz and Fitcher (1989) *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:469-494.

Since the early 1980's, Peter Lowther and then later Neil Bernstein have taught ornithology classes at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory in Dickinson County. Banding has been part of class activities. Current classwork with Bernstein and short visits by Lowther have accumulated some interesting records, a few of which are listed here.

**Snowy Egret** 746-26924 Banded as L-U by staff at Ruby Lake NWR, NV on 27 June 1983. Found dead there on 4 June 1991. 8 years old.

**White-faced Ibis** 836-35830 Banded as L-U by staff of the Malheur NWR, OR on 10 July 1986. Found dead in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, on 18 Dec 1990, at least 2600 km SE of banding site.

**(Western) Canada Goose** 558-93289 Banded as L-F by staff at Modoc NWR, CA on 13 June 1979. Shot near Sterling Alberta on 29 Nov 1991, at least 1100 km NE of banding site. 12 years old.

**Mallard** 1467-80054 Banded as SY-F by R.A. Ryder at Rawhide Energy Site, Wellington CO on 12 Mar 1987. Shot at Cook Inlet AK on 10 Sept 1991, about 2600 km NW of banding site. 6 years old.

... 2327-21311 Banded as AHY-F at Sacramento CA on 11 May 1991. Trapped and released by

staff at the Kootenai NWR, Bonners Ferry ID on 2 Aug 1991, about 1250 km NE of banding site.

... 1287-45785 Banded as AHY-F by staff at Malheur NWR, OR on 22 Aug 1981. Shot along the Mississippi River in Iowa on 20 Oct 1991, at least 2200 km E of banding site. At least 11 years old.

**Gadwall** 826-74748 Banded as SY-F by R.A. Ryder at Rawhide Energy Site, Wellington CO on 27 Mar 1989. Shot at Brigham City UT on 8 Nov 1991, about 650 km W of banding site.

**Redheads** The following ducks were banded by R.A. Ryder at Rawhide Energy Site, Wellington CO:

... 776-54419 Banded as SY-F on 23 Mar 1988. Shot at Granger TX on 29 Nov 1991, about 1300 km SE of banding site. 5 years old.

... 976-73172 Banded as SY-M on 22 Mar 1988. Shot at Goose Lake OR on 14 Oct 1991, about 1200 km W of banding site. 5 years old.

... 686-43554 Banded as SY-M on 13 Mar 1987. Shot at La Joya Wildlife Management Area NM on 23 Dec 1991, at least 750 mi S of banding site. 6 years old.

**Northern Harrier** 745-72596 Banded as HY-F by the staff of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at the Marin Headlands, Marin County CA on 9 Nov 1989. Found dead at the Coquille River Mouth OR on 11 June 1991, about 600 km N of banding site.

**Cooper's Hawk** 614-55222 Banded as HY-M by John Gregoire at Cape May NJ on 21 Sept 1985. Found dead on highway by Fred Mercuzzi at Leighton PA on 20 May 1993, about 225 km NW of banding site. 8 years old.

**Ferruginous Hawk** 1387-04415 Banded as L-U by Steve Platt near Bitter Creek WY on 22 June 1988. Caught by hand in Chihuahua, Mexico on 14 July 1991, at least 1200 km S of banding site.

**American Kestrel** 1143-66013 Banded as L-F by Sheila Fowler at Hawk Cliff ON on 31 May 1981. Recovered near Lucan ON in March 1992. About 10 years, 10 months old. [see Ontario Bird Banding Assn. Newsletter, vol. 38:10.]

... 1493-85864 Banded as L-F by Don Watts near Bear Lake PA on 21 June 1991. Found dead at East Aurora NY on 5 Apr 1992, about 44 km NE of banding site.

... 1363-59526 Banded as L-F by Ted Grisez and Don Watts near Lander PA on 5 June 1987. Found dead in Buffalo NY on 30 Aug 1992, about 42 km NNE of banding site.

... 1493-90454 Banded as L-F by Lowell McEwen in McKenzie County ND on 9 June 1991. Hit by vehicle near Throckmorton TX on 7 Sept 1991, at least 1500 km SE of banding site.

**Mourning Dove** 1333-37491 Banded as HY-U by Timothy Burr at Miramar Naval Air Station, San Diego County CA on 10 Sept 1991. Shot at Los Algodones, Baja California, Mexico on 16 Oct 1991.

... 1333-37152 Banded as HY-U by Timothy Burr at Miramar Naval Air Station, San Diego County CA on 20 Aug 1991. Shot at El Sombrerete, Mexico on 29 Dec 1991.

**Hairy Woodpecker** 531-76954 Banded as AHY-M by Peter Lowther and ornithology class at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Dickinson County IA on 9 June 1983. Renetted there by Neil Bernstein and class on 10 June 1993. At least 11 years old.

**Least Flycatcher** 1780-41439 Banded as U-U by staff of Beaverhill Bird Observatory at Beaverhill Lake AB on 13 Aug 1989. Killed by boy with sling-shot near Chiquimula, Guatemala on 15 Apr 1991, about 4700 km SE of banding site.

**Tree Swallow** 910-22781 Banded as AHY-F by Bob Danner near Niske AB on 6 June 1987. Reported from Lacombe AB during the summer of 1991, about 140 km NE of banding site. At least 5 years old.

... 2021-69379 Banded as L-U by Bob Danner near Leduc AB on 25 June 1990. Trapped near Ireton AB on 13 June 1991, about 130 km E of banding site.

**Cliff Swallow** 850-51217 Banded as AHY-F by Peter Lowther at nesting colony near Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Dickinson County IA on 24 June 1983. Recovered there on 4 June 1993. At least 11 years, 0 months old. [New longevity record. Previous record 10 years, 0 months, see *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:486.]

**Black-capped Chickadee** 1740-61204 Banded as U-U by Ted Grisez at Warren PA on 6 Sept 1985. Recaptured there on 14 May 1993. At least 8 years old.

... 1630-05397 Banded as U-U by staff of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory at Edmonton AB on 16 Oct 1983. Recaptured there on 19 Oct 1991. At least 8 years old.

**Boreal Chickadee** 1660-33073 Banded as AHY-U by Tom Pogson at Fairbanks AK on 14 Feb 1986. Recaptured there as AHY-F on 7 Aug 1993. At least 8 years, 2 months old. [New longevity record. Previous record was 4 years, 8 months, see *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:487. Pogson notes that this bird has survived at least 7 winters in a region that routinely gets to -50°F, including 6 consecutive days below -60°F in Jan-Feb 1989.]

... 1660-33375 Banded as HY-U by Tom Pogson at Fairbanks AK on 25 Sept 1986. Renetted there as AHY-F on 23 June 1991. 5 years, 0 months old. [Also exceeds previous longevity record, see above.]

**Western Bluebird** 1361-38164 Banded as L-F by Elsie Eltzroth at Corvallis OR on 28 May 1986. Found dead in nest box there on 5 June 1991. 5 year old.

**Gray Catbird** 531-76976 Banded as AHY-M by Peter Lowther at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Dickinson County IA on 24 June 1982. Recovered there on 30 June 1988. At least 7 years old.

**Yellow Warbler** 1720-49529 Banded as AHY-M by staff of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory at Beaverhill Lake AB on 24 May 1986. Renetted there on 27 May 1991. At least 6 years old.

... 900-21808 Banded as U-F by Forest Strand at River Bend Nature Center, Faribault MN on 26 May 1986. Recovered there on 20 May 1992. At least 6 years old.

**Yellow Warblers** The following birds were banded by Peter Lowther at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Dickinson County IA:

... 1610-79427 Banded as AHY-M on 3 July 1984. Recovered there by Neil Bernstein on 30 June 1992. At least 9 years, 1 month old. [**New longevity record.** Previous record was 8 years, 11 months old, see *J. Field Ornithol.* 54:294.]

... 1500-56557 Banded as AHY-F on 19 June 1982. Recovered there on 6 June 1989. At least 8 years old.

... 1610-79130 Banded as AHY-F on 9 June 1983. Recovered there by Neil Bernstein on 6 June 1989. At least 7 years old.

... 1610-79370 Banded as AHY-M on 13 June 1984. Recovered there by Neil Bernstein on 28 June 1991. At least 8 years old.

**Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler** 1860-67285 Banded as HY-U by staff of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory at Beaverhill Lake AB on 8 Sept 1990. Killed by cat near Macon GA on 19 Jan 1991, at least 3250 km SE of banding site.

**Common Yellowthroat** 1370-54883 Banded as AHY-M by Ken Voget at Salton Sea NWR CA on 24 Sept 1989. Netted near Gearhart OR on 26 May 1991, at least 1600 km NE of banding site.

**Wilson's Warbler** 1850-49058 Recaptured as AHY-M by Tom Pogson at Dry Lake AK on 28 Aug 1991. Originally banded as an American Goldfinch (!) in Oklahoma in April 1989.

**Fox Sparrow** 981-48082 Banded as AHY-U by Dennis Vroman at Grants Pass OR on 8 Feb 1987. Recaptured there on 9 Nov 1991. 5 years old.

**Golden-crowned Sparrows** 1361-64837 and 1361-64880 Banded as AHY-U by Dennis Vroman at Grants Pass OR on 8 Feb 1987 and 2 Apr 1987, respectively. Both recaptured there on 19 Apr 1991. Both birds 5 years old.

... 1231-55020 Banded as SY-U by Otis Swisher at Medford OR on 15 Mar 1987. Retrapped there on 7 Mar 1991. 6 years old, two previous returns.

... 1231-55055 and 1231-55012 Banded as AHY-U by Otis Swisher at Medford OR on 3 Dec 1987 and 25 Feb 1987, respectively. Both retrapped there on 18 Feb 1991. At least 5 years old, one previous encounter each.

**White-crowned (Puget Sound) Sparrow** 1391-63801 Banded as HY-U by Eugene Kridler at Diamond Point WA on 8 Aug 1987. Killed at San Anselmo CA on 24 Dec 1991, about 1200 km S of banding site.

**White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow** 1391-70694 Banded as AHY-U by Eugene Kridler at Diamond Point WA on 9 May 1990. Killed at Sonoma CA on 18 Nov 1991, about 1150 km S of banding site.

**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco** 1650-00167 Banded as AHY-F by Chester Kebbe at Portland OR on 3 Jan 1983. Retrapped there on 18 Mar 1991. At least 9 years old, no prior returns.

... 1740-70840 Banded as AHY-U by Otis Swisher at Medford OR on 26 Feb 1987. Retrapped there on 12 Feb 1991. At least 5 years old.

... 1740-70809 Banded as HY-U by Otis Swisher at Medford OR on 19 Oct 1986. Retrapped there on 21 Feb 1991. 5 years old.

**Red-winged Blackbird** 852-99621 Banded as AHY-M by Oakleigh Thorne at Valley WY on 19 Apr 1985. Retrapped by Robert Smith at Cheyenne WY on 17 July 1991. At least 7 years old.

**Common Grackle** 1213-95044 Banded as AHY-M by Peter Lowther at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Dickinson County IA on 18 June 1984. Killed on road on 9 June 1991. At least 8 years old.

**Purple Finch** 850-41282 Banded as AHY-M by S.M. Speich near Olympia WA on 23 Apr 1989. Retrapped by Otis Swisher at Medford OR on 27

Feb 1991, about 550 km S of banding site. [At least ASY when first banded, so 4+ years old.]

**Evening Grosbeak** 8001-87060 Banded as ASY-F by David Prescott near Exshaw AB on 19 Jan 1991. Recovered at Grande Prairie AB on 25 Sept 1991, about 240 km NW of banding site.

## News, Notes, Comments

### AHY White-throated Sparrows Said to Have Retained Juvenal Plumage

Craves (1993. *N. Am. Bird Bander* 18:116-117) described a female White-throated Sparrow banded at Dearborn, Michigan, in May as having had "a great deal of breast streaking," and attributed this to the retention of juvenal plumage. She quoted Bent's description of the juvenal plumage of this species; this account was taken by Bent from the classic work by Dwight (1900. The sequence of plumages and moults of the passerine birds of New York. *Annals NY Acad. Sci.* 13:73-360). The juvenal body plumage of the White-throated Sparrow, like that of virtually all passerines, consists of feathers that are lax and relatively weak compared to those of later plumages. In a few passerines, such as the *Catharus* thrushes, isolated juvenal body feathers may persist into the winter, but this is never true of an entire area of the body such as the underparts.

Streaked underparts are quite common in White-throated Sparrows in the first basic plumage. In a sample of 49 fall skins in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History of White-throated Sparrows in first basic plumage (HY - skulled by the preparator), 18 have various amounts of ventral streaking. The streaked feathers are *new*, i.e. of the first basic plumage, *not* retained juvenal feathers. This species undergoes a partial prealternate molt in the early spring, whereby individually variable amounts of the basic plumage are replaced. In most instances, apparently, the streaked ventral feathers

of the first basic plumage are replaced by plain or lightly marked feathers. In a few instances, however, birds in alternate plumage (spring-summer) can be found with ventral streaks, as in Ms. Craves's bird.

In the Carnegie collection I have found spring-summer White-throated Sparrows with ventral streaking as follows:

|        |   |                        |             |
|--------|---|------------------------|-------------|
| 40225  | M | Moose Factory, Ont.    | 14 Jun 1912 |
| 82247  | F | Deerfield, IL          | 15 May 1920 |
| 102444 | F | Point Natashquan, Que. | 1 Jun 1928  |
| 102498 | M | " "                    | 26 May 1928 |
| 114779 | M | North Bay, Ont.        | 5 Jul 1933  |
| 164704 | F | Beaufort Co., SC       | 22 Apr 1941 |
| 164708 | M | Cambridge, MA          | 26 Apr 1909 |
| 164709 | F | " "                    | 5 May 1909  |

It should thus be reemphasized that streaked underparts in White-throated Sparrows in their first basic plumage do *not* represent retained juvenal plumage. It may be assumed that at least most of the spring-summer birds with streaked underparts are SY, although there is no direct evidence of this. There are only two or three fall White-throat specimens in our collection that were skulled as AHY (thus in second or later basic plumage) that have ventral streaks, so I would expect that streaked underparts would be a very rare variant in White-throated Sparrows in definitive alternate (spring-summer ASY) plumage.

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