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Significant Encounters

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Significant Encounters

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Comments, corrections and mea culpas: A number of people wrote to me commenting on the last column (NABB 19:155-158), highlighting several points of interest, or bringing new information regarding some of the records. Kathy Klimkiewicz of the BBL pointed out that one of the American White Pelican recoveries was a recovery of its band only. The column reported that the bird was 22 years old; however, the age at death is not known when the band only is reported. Because we do not know when the bird and band parted ways, we only know that 22 years elapsed between banding and discovery of the band. The bird may have died years before. Kathy wrote that this is a common mistake in interpreting the "band only" code.

Kathy also reported that the Rufous Hummingbird (t12793) reported as a new longevity in the last column (NABB 19:157) did indeed exceed the published record, but it is not the current longevity record. The BBL has an unpublished record of an 8-yr, 1-mo bird, a year older than the bird reported in the last column. Fame is fleeting indeed. This does point out that the encounters reported in this column are not the final word, and that the records and published reports of the BBL should be considered the final authority on banding records such as longevity.

Bob Tweit pointed out that I was incorrectly calculating the age of birds that were banded originally as second-year birds (see Mallard and Gadwall records in NABB 19:156, for instance). I was counting these birds as being two years old when banded, when BBL protocol treats them as one-year-olds. Bob and the BBL are right, a SY bird is in its second calendar year of life, making it one year old. (Bob actually pointed this out during the review of the last column prior to publication, but I was too stubborn to think it over clearly.)

Finally, Don Stiles wrote to elaborate on the most curious records in the previous Significant Encounters. The column included reports of two Tree Swallows banded in Alberta and recovered from Barn Owl pellets in Louisiana (NABB 19:157). One swallow had been banded by Don; the other by Bob Danner. I wondered if perhaps the bands were recovered from the same pellet. They were not. In a study of Barn Owl diets, Jennifer Coulson of the Louisiana Nature and Science Center, New Orleans, found remains of 18 Tree Swallows, including the two bands, among 544 vertebrate skeletons recovered from a large number of pellets. An account of Tree Swallow recoveries from Alberta (including discussion of the two Louisiana pellet recoveries) can be found in Stiles, D.J. and M.I. Houston. 1994. *Blue Jay* 52:206-212.

And so, without further ado, but perhaps some trepidation (what will readers find next?), here are some more significant encounters. Many of the following records were reported in WBBA's 1993 annual summaries by banders, as well as more recent encounters reported directly to me. I have the 1994 WBBA summaries in hand now, and will include encounters from those reports in the next columns. Several reports below were reported by Chris Otahal in the newsletter of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station, CA.

American White Pelican 619-19795 Banded as L-U by staff of British Columbia Wildlife Banders at Stum Lake BC on 29 Jul 1992. Resighted in Bend OR on 29 Sep 1992, about 1100 km S of banding site.

... 619-18103 Banded as L-U by staff of British Columbia Wildlife Banders at Stum Lake BC on 13 Aug 1991. Resighted along the Santa Ana River CA on 10 Oct 1992, about 2200 km S of banding site.

Great Blue Heron 807-05262 Banded as L-U by Norman Hogg near Mecca CA on 16 Jun 1990. Found dead at Las Vegas NV in Oct 1992, about 320 km N of banding site.

Black-crowned Night-Heron 1377-28194 Banded as L-U by C.H. Trost at Lake Walcott, Minidoka NWR, ID on 1 Jul 1982. Reported from Sinaloa, Mexico on 27 Mar 1993, at least 1800 km S of banding site. 11 years old.

... 987-47452 Banded as L-U by Norman Hogg near Mecca CA on 11 Apr 1981. Found dead at Victorville CA on 26 May 1992, about 160 km NW of banding site. 11 years old.

Mallard 1397-17221 Banded as HY-M by Colorado Dept. of Wildlife at Alamosa CO on 5 Jan 1987. Retrapped and released by staff of Monte Vista NWR at Alamosa on 5 Feb 1993. 6 years old.

... 1337-76569 Banded as AHY-F by staff of Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. at Ocean Lake WY on 11 Jan 1992. Retrapped and released by staff of Monte Vista NWR, Alamosa CO on 5 Feb 1993, about 700 km S of banding site.

... 2337-85097 Banded as AHY-M by staff of Bowdoin NWR, MT on 27 Sep 1991. Shot by hunter at Sweet Lake LA on 29 Dec 1992, at least 1900 km SE of banding site. [See following pintail recovery.]

... 2347-81329 Banded as AHY-F near Bend OR on 6 Jul 1993. Retrapped by Jim Reynolds and staff of Koosenai NWR, Bonners Ferry ID on 29 Jul 1993, about 650 km NE of banding site.

... 1197-13961 Banded as AHY-M by staff of Camas NWR at Hamer ID on 5 Aug 1993. Shot near Ridge Lake AB on 2 Nov 1993, about 650 km NE of banding site.

... 1197-14132 Banded as HY-M by staff of Camas NWR at Hamer ID on 30 Aug 1993. Shot at Butte Creek CA on 26 Dec 1993.

... 1197-13938 Banded as AHY-F by staff of Camas NWR at Hamer ID on 4 Aug 1993. Shot near Cutler Reservoir UT on 3 Oct 1993, about 180 km SE of banding site.

... 1197-14115 Banded as AHY-M by staff of Camas NWR at Hamer ID on 20 Aug 1993. Shot near Salt Lake City UT on 2 Oct 1993, about 300 km S of banding site.

Northern Pintail 736-02747 Banded as HY-M by staff of Bowdoin NWR, MT on 29 Aug 1992. Shot by hunter at Sweet Lake LA on 7 Jan 1993, at least 1900 km SE of banding site. [Both this bird and Mallard banded at Bowdoin NWR (cited above) were shot by same hunter in Louisiana 9 days apart.]

Ring-necked Duck 976-47049 Banded by Bobby Kennamer at Par Pond, Savannah River Site SC on 4 Dec 1987. Harvested by Chirstian Beuzelin near Camaguey, Cuba on 10 Jan 1994, about 1300 km SE of banding site. At least 7 years old. [Studies of waterfowl movements at this Dept. Energy facility result in @650 Ring-necked Ducks banded each year. First recovery from Cuba for this program. No previous recoveries.]

Osprey 788-02433 Banded as L-U by J. Hughes at Tok AK on 27 Jul 1993. Reported live from Nanaimo BC on 2 Oct 1993, about 1900 km SE of banding site.

... 608-86093 Banded as L-U by staff of British Columbia Wildlife Banders at Kooteney Lake BC on 18 Jul 1990. Found dead on Flathead River MT on 27 Aug 1993, about 100 km SE of banding site.

Bald Eagle 629-09906 Banded as AHY-M by Al Harmata in Colorado on 11 Jan 1981. Found dead near Center CO by staff of Monte Vista NWR on 23 Mar 1993. 12 years since banding.

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1343-41030 Banded as HY-F by staff of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at Marin Headlands CA on 22 Sep 1993. Struck stationary object at Rancho Santa Fe, Baja California, Mexico on 8 Oct 1993, about 1000 km S of banding site. [Bird released alive.]

... 1433-89791 Banded as HY-F by staff of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at Marin Headlands CA on 13 Nov 1990. Found dead after striking stationary object at Riddle OR on 28 Oct 1993, about 550 km N of banding site.

Northern Goshawk 1807-15841 Banded as L-U by Ray Cromie at Thorhild AB on 13 Jun 1992. Found dead at Runneymede SASK on 25 Feb 1993.

Gray Hawk 987-99528 Banded as L-U by Bill Mannan at Arivaca AZ on 26 Jun 1992. Shot at Santrago Papasquiario, Durango, Mexico on 15 Jan 1993, at least 800 km SE of banding site.

... 987-99527 Banded as L-U by Bill Mannan at Arivaca AZ on 26 Jun 1992. Hit by car near Robles Junction AZ on 17 Jul 1993.

Red-tailed Hawk 1387-00697 Banded as HY-U by staff of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at Marin Headlands CA on 16 Sept 1985. Died due to injury at Lompoc CA on 16 Nov 1993, about 520 km SE of banding site. 8 years old.

... 987-93813 Banded as HY-U by staff of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory at Marin Headlands CA on 13 Sept 1990. Found dead at Dayville OR on 5 Jul 1993, about 800 km NE of banding site.

Long-billed Dowitcher 822-43104 Banded as AHY-U by staff of N. Alaska Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on the N slope AK on 9 Jul 1990. Found dead in rice field at Belle City LA on 20 Nov 1993, about 5500 km SE of banding site.

Red Phalarope 911-00143 Banded as L-U by staff of N. Alaska Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on the N slope AK on 26 Jun 1990. Found dead on road at Deer Park MI on 10 Jul 1991, about 4400 km SE of banding site.

Eastern Screech-Owl 745-36484 Banded as AHY-U by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 13 Sep 1985. Recaptured there on 14 Oct 1993. At least 9 years old.

Chuck-will's-widow 793-11808 Banded as AHY-M by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 8 Apr 1978. Found dead in Dominican Republic in April 1992, about 1400 km SE of banding site. At least 14 years, 10 months old. [First Chuck banded at Casey Key station, first recovery for species away from banding site. **New longevity record;** species not included in compilations by Klimkiewicz, Clapp and others.]

Black-chinned Hummingbird t33413 Banded as AHY-M by Bill Calder at Sapillo NM on 13 May 1991. Reported from Clifton AZ on 28 Mar 1993, about 460 km W of banding site.

Rufous Hummingbird t37268 Banded as AHY-F by Bill Calder at Vista Verde Ranch, Clark CO on 5 Aug 1991. Recovered at U.S. Forest Service MAPS station N of Ketchikan AK in 1993, about 2400 km NW of banding site.

Downy Woodpecker 1341-54737 Banded as AHY by staff of Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso CA on 28 Apr 1985. Recaptured there on 4 Mar 1995. At least 11 years old.

Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker 1433-69923 Banded as SY-M by J.D. Anderson at Olympia WA on 17 Feb 1990. Caught by cat 1 km S of banding site on 25 July 1992. 3 years old. [Bird appeared dead but "came back to life" in back room of cat's owner. Released alive. Cat reported to be very disappointed.]

Alder Flycatcher (Band number not given) Banded at Leder Point Biological Station NE on 28 May 1993. Netted by Tom Pogson of Alaska Bird Observatory at Fairbanks AK on 7 Aug 1993, at least 3500 km NW of banding site.

Tree Swallow 2010-91982 Banded as L-U by Donald Stiles near Cochrane AB on 1 Jul 1986. Recaptured near there in nest box on 10 May 1993. About 7 years old.

Gray Jay 1163-20900 Banded as U-U by Thomas Nicholls at Fraser Experimental Forest, Grand Co., CO on 25 Aug 1982. Renetted there on 24 Aug 1993. At least 11 years, 3 months old. [New longevity record? Previous record 10 years, 2 months: see *J. Field Ornithol.* 54:132. Also reported 7 other returns from 7-8 years old.]

Western Scrub-Jay 1053-23122 Banded as AHY by staff of Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso CA on 20 May 1983. Recaptured there on 20 May 1991. At least 9 years old.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1960-12668 Banded as HY-F by John Dorio at Anchorage AK on 12 Aug 1993. Struck window and killed at Port Moody BC on 24 Sept 1993, about 2000 km SE of banding site.

Western Bluebird 1351-50308 Banded as L-M by Elsie Eltzroth near Philomath OR on 17 Aug 1989. Killed by cat (probably) near Corvallis OR on 8 Jul 1993. 4 years old.

... 1351-50338 Banded as HY-M by Elsie Eltzroth near Corvallis OR on 17 Aug 1990. Resighted there on 6 Feb 1993. (Rehabilitated orphan released at hack site [not in typical bluebird habitat]. Has returned briefly to hack site each year since release.)

Mountain Bluebird 1451-28241 Banded as L-U at Ellis Bird Farm near Red Deer AB in 1991. Recaptured in nest box by Donald Stiles near Elkton AB in 1993, about 100 km SW of banding location. (Fourth bluebird banded at Ellis Bird Farm to be recaptured in Elkton area, others were originally banded in 1985 [1 bird], 1987 [2], and 1993 [1].)

American Robin 952-30267 Banded as AHY-U by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 8 Feb 1993. Found dead at College Park MD on 19 Apr 1993, about 1450 km NW of banding site.

Gray Catbird (Band number not given) Banded as AHY-U by Elise Lapham on Block Island RI on 22 Sep 1988. Returned there on 23 May 1994. At least 7 years old.

... 941-20628 Banded as AHY-U by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 15 Apr 1985. Recaptured there on 20 Feb 1993. At least 9 years old.

... 901-62016 Banded as HY-U by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 17 Oct 1986. Found dead Greene Township PA on 1 Aug 1987.

... 991-78449 Banded as AHY-U by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 6 Oct 1987. Recaptured there on 19 Mar 1995. At least 9 years old.

Brown Thrasher 872-37640 Banded as U-U by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 30 Oct 1981. Recaptured there on 2 May 1992. At least 11 years old.

... 862-13040 Banded as U-U by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 19 Sept 1980. Recaptured there on 2 May 1992. At least 12 years old. (Recaptured on same day as 11-year-old thrasher in previous record.)

Loggerhead Shrike 8031-50355 Banded as AHY-F by Doug Collister near Atlee AB on 11 Jun 1992. Recaptured in cowbird trap on the Fort Hood Military Reserve by Gil Eckrich on 5 Mar 1995, about 2440 km SE of banding site. (When first found, shrike had killed and impaled a cowbird inside the trap. Shrike re-entered the trap twice before it was moved 16 km from the trap and released again.)

Yellow Warbler (band number not given) Banded as HY-U by Kay Burk at Troy MT on 18 Aug 1986. Recovered there as AHY-F on 20 Aug 1995. 9 years, 3 mon old. (**New longevity record**; previous record 8 years, 11 months, see *J. Field Ornithol.* 54:293.)

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 1650-69083 Banded as AHY by staff of Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso CA on 22 Jan 1984. Recaptured there on 22 Mar 1992. At least 8 years, 9 mon old. (**New longevity record.** Previous record 6 years, 11 months, see *J. Field Ornithol.* 54:292.)

... 1760-82362 Banded as AHY-M by Annette Flanigan-Stedman and Stanley Stedman at Casey Key FL on 1 Mar 1987. Recaptured there on 2 Jan 1991. At least 5 years old; 3 previous returns.

Common Yellowthroat (Band number not given) Banded as AHY-F by Elise Lapham at Block Island RI on 20 May 1990. Recovered there on 25 May 1995. At least 6 years old. One previous return.

Lazuli Bunting 1830-51515 Banded as AHY-F by Dennis Vroman at Horse Creek Meadows, Siskiyou Natl. Forest, OR on 14 Jun 1989. Recaptured there on 20 Jul 1993. At least 5 years old. (One other 5-year-old bunting reported.)

California Towhee 912-06319 Banded as AHY by staff of Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso CA on 9 Mar 1985. Recaptured there on 29 Nov 1992. At least 8 years old.

American Tree Sparrow (Band number not given) Banded by Tom Pogson of Alaska Bird Observatory at Fairbanks AK on 18 Sept 1993. Captured by cat at Calgary AB on 17 Oct 1993, at least 2400 km SE of banding site.

Song Sparrow 2051-66770 Banded as HY by staff of Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso CA on 2 Jul 1986. Recaptured there on 3 Sep 1994. At least 8 years old.

Golden-crowned Sparrow 1361-93869 Banded as AHY-M by Ralph Williams at Juneau AK on 18 Apr 1990. Killed by cat at Victoria BC on 11 Feb 1992, about 1300 km SE of banding site.

... 971-14831 Banded as AHY by staff of Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso CA on 22 Jan 1986. Recaptured there on 23 Jan 1993. At least 8 years old.

Red-winged Blackbird 912-05872 Banded as ASY by staff of Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso CA on 26 Feb 1983. Recaptured there on 12 May 1993. At least 12 years old.

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch 1501-41375 Banded as AHY-U by David Prescott at Exshaw AB on 10 Apr 1992. Struck stationary object at Glenrock WY on 13 Mar 1993, about 1100 km SW of banding site.

Pine Grosbeak 8051-99817 Banded as AHY-M by Grahame Booth near Water Valley AB on 6 Nov 1994. Found dead on 43rd floor of office building in downtown Calgary AB the next morning (7 Nov 1994), 64 km ESE of banding location. (Distance flown in 18 hr or less, banding and recovery time clearly implying nocturnal flight. Reported by Doug Collister.)

House Finch 990-11341 Banded as AHY-M by H.E. McClure at Camarillo CA on 10 Mar 1983. Retrapped there on 25 Apr 1991. At least 9 years old. [McClure also reported 15 other HOFI returns ranging 6-8 years old.]

Red Crossbill 1241-80277 Banded as SY-M by Ralph Williams at Juneau AK on 13 May 1994. Killed by cat at Edmonton AB on 8 May 1992, about 1400 km SE of banding site.

Pine Siskin 1860-08477 Banded as U-U by R. Altman near Boring OR on 17 Oct 1992. Recaptured by Marjorie Elmore at San Jose CA on 3 Jan 1993, about 1000 km S of banding site. (Reported by M. Elmore.)

Evening Grosbeak 961-84417 Banded as ASY-F by Elly Jones at Swan Lake MT on 2 Feb 1991. Found dead by Mike Magnuson, at Lake Almanor, Chester CA on 28 Oct 1994, about 1050 km SW of banding site.

... 731-97356 Banded as AHY-F by George Merrick at Bend OR on 23 Feb 1991. Found dead at Bonners Ferry ID on 1 Jul 1993, about 700 km NE of banding site.

