

2003

News, Notes, Comments

Robert P. Yunick

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Yunick, Robert P. (2003) "News, Notes, Comments," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 28 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol28/iss1/2>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

News, Notes, Comments

Same-Day Recapture of a Purple Finch at Two Feeders 2.5 km Apart

On 24 May 2002 I recaptured a previously banded adult female Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) at 1150 hours which later that same day was killed by a cat at another feeder located 2.5 km (1.6 mi) due west of my feeder/banding site, giving an indication of the distance traveled by this species while foraging. This individual was originally banded on 24 Aug 1997 as a female with a brood patch, undergoing prebasic molt including primaries, coverts and body plumage. Given the extreme wear on the tail, the bird was likely in its second year. It was recaptured 7 May 1998 not yet in breeding condition, then again on 24 May 2002 with a well defined brood patch. This capture history, along with numerous years of banding experience with this species at this station, strongly suggests that the bird was one of the local breeding population, and on that date of death was several days short of six years of age.

The banding site is located at Jenny Lake in the Adirondack Mountains, 7 km west of the village of Corinth, Saratoga County, NY, at 563 Co. Rt. 10, Corinth; and the recovery site at 744 Co. Rt. 10. The Purple Finch is the most numerous banded breeding bird at this station with over 10,000 banded since 1970. In that time, two other same-season (but not same-day) cat kills occurred at feeders 0.6 km and 1.8 km distant; and two other birds were trapped and released approximately 17 km southeast. The capture and recapture dates of these latter two birds suggest they were cases of post-breeding dispersal by young of the year in early August, and not cases of distance traveled while foraging.

I thank Dorthea Meldrum for reporting the band to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Elizabeth O'Neill of that department for contacting the Bird Banding Laboratory, and both of them for supplying additional information making possible the exact location of the recovery.

Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady, NY 12309-4223

Unusual Plumage of a Yellow-rumped Warbler

On 21 Oct 2002 I captured and banded a Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) still possessing over 90% of its juvenal plumage, having replaced only the feathers of the crown and auricular areas, while showing no evidence of any molt in progress. The banding occurred at Island Beach State Park south of South Seaside Park, Ocean County, NJ.

This bird had the darkly streaked plumage of a juvenile over all of its body (except for the crown and auriculars) which included worn, loosely textured tail coverts, one worn yellow feather among the rump feathers, no yellow spot at the side of the breast, and juvenal wing coverts. Except for its head, it resembled the juvenile portrayed in Plate 12 of *A Field Guide to the Warblers of North America* (J. Dunn and K. Garrett. 1997. Boston and New York. Houghton Mifflin Company), though grayer than brown with darker, nearly black streaking. Nowhere among this retained juvenal plumage was there any appearance of newly growing pin feathers.

The crown and auriculars had undergone prebasic molt and were in basic plumage. They were pale brown in color and the usual yellow crown spot was present. There was no sheathing at the bases of these replaced feathers indicating their growth was complete. Based on this pale-brown coloration and lack of streaking or presence of any blue-gray in the crown, this bird appeared to be a female. Its unflattened wing chord was 68 mm, fat class 0 (on a 0 to 3 scale) and weight 11.5 g.

I am familiar with juvenile Yellow-rumped Warblers and their molting sequence based on banding them where the species breeds at Jenny Lake in the Adirondack Mountains near Corinth, Saratoga County, NY. Except for the molt about the head, and the added wear to the retained body plumage, this bird looked very typically like a juvenile in July or August. Notes which I have taken on normally molting juveniles from 2 Aug to 10 Sep indicate that the first stage of prebasic molt commences on the