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News, Notes, Comments

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retained approximately half of their juvenal greater coverts along with the relatively obvious color and length differences between juvenal and first prebasic coverts makes the molt limit relatively easy to recognize in this species. Due to the early completion of skull pneumatization by many HY individuals, we recommend that banders rely on the presence of this molt limit in the greater coverts rather than skulling to determine the age of Great Crested Flycatchers during fall migration.

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News, Notes, Comments

An Unusual Nest Location for Dark-eyed Junco

The Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) is generally considered a ground nesting bird, but instances of elevated and unusual nest locations are known. Forbush (1929) mentions a Massachusetts nest on a shelf over a door inside a woodshed and a Nova Scotia nest on a ledge 10 ft (3.05 m) above ground beneath a gable of a house; and Eaton (1968) describes a nest in New York state in a bird feeder on a pipe 8 ft (2.44 m) above ground and another at the same height in a vine-overgrown trellis. Nolan et al. (2002) in a more extensive review of the species' nesting behavior, based largely on Virginia montane data for *J. h. carolinensis*, which they state are very similar to

J. h. hyemalis, indicate that locations include variable ground sites, but with elevated sites not uncommon. The highest was in a tree at 15 m, while other locations included window ledges, beams, light fixtures, and hanging flower pots. "Among 317 nests, 41 (12.9%) were elevated, 24 of these in or under buildings."

Here we report a nesting in a flower-bearing planter atop a railing on a deck in front of the glass windows of the Chamberlin's Adirondack camp, in close proximity to human activities both inside the camp and on the outside deck, located at Jenny Lake near Corinth, NY. The planter was located 2.3 m above ground on a deck railing, the deck extending out 2.46 m southeast from the full-length, first-story glass windows on the front of the

camp located in a forest clearing slightly larger than the camp itself. The planter, one of four on the railing, measured 85 cm long, 15 cm high and 23 cm wide and contained flowering *impatiens* 20 cm high at both ends with Mexican heather (*Cuphea hyssopifolia*) in the center third. The nest, which was 9.5 cm outside diameter and 8 cm tall, was centered in the planter and concealed by the heather.

The nest was completed 4 Jul 2003, consistent with the date of second junco broods in New York (Eaton 1968), with first egg on 8 Jul, second on 9 Jul, and fourth by 12 Jul. Three eggs hatched 23 Jul (12 day incubation), and on 28 Jul the three nestlings were banded, at which time their wing chords measured 22-28 mm with flight feathers still completely sheathed. When checked on 2 Aug (ten days after hatching), the undisturbed nest was empty, the young having presumably fledged. One of those young was recaptured at the Yunick camp feeding station 305m away (1000 ft) on 13 Sep as a hatching-year female.

Since both adults wore bands, a mist net was placed near the nest when the young were banded on 28 Jul, affording capture of the female, but repeated misses on the male. The female had been banded at the Yunick feeder as an after-hatching-year bird on 21 Aug 2000 and recaptured there 24 May and 2 Sep 2002 as a local breeder as well as on 3 May 2003 with a male in breeding condition in the same net check. He was most likely the uncaptured male at the Chamberlin nest. He had been banded at the Yunick feeder 19 May 2002 as an after-second-year male in breeding condition, and recaptured on 3 May 2003 with the female and again alone on 9 May 2003.

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Two Examples of Interrupted, Extended Rectrix Growth

Two examples of anomalous rectrix growth observed in a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) are described and illustrated here. The House Sparrow was captured on 19 Oct 2001 in my yard at Schenectady, NY, (band number 1521-55139), and the Song Sparrow on the property of Thomas Palmer, 923 Langley Road, south of Amsterdam, NY, on 24 Sep 2002 (band number 2181-04088).

The House Sparrow was a hatching-year male with an anomalous left rectrix (LR) 2 shown in Figure 1. Its right rectrices (RR) appeared normal in shape and length, measuring 57-59.5 mm; and LR3-6, measuring 58-58.5 mm, were similarly normal (Pyle, P. 1997. *Identification guide to North American birds*, Part I. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA). Measurements were made with a steel rule graduated to 1 mm, estimated to the nearest 0.5 mm, by inserting the rule between the feathers while attached to the bird. LR1 was regrowing, sheathed at the base, and measured 18 mm; while the anomalous LR2 appeared to represent two stages of interrupted growth out to a total length of 78.5 mm. Its conjugate rectrix on the R side, RR2, measured 57.5 mm. In all other aspects the bird seemed normal and healthy (wing chord 77 mm, fat class 0 and weight 31.6 g).

Figure 2 is a microphotograph of the portion of the rachis where growth was interrupted and resumed.