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Significant Encounters

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After a sizeable delay, here are a few more encounters with banded birds, submitted either to me or to *NABB* editors. The records below are presented to highlight interesting recoveries and recaptures that have resulted from banding projects. Some of the records may be significant advances in our ornithological knowledge. Banders often regard the recovery of long-lived individuals as being among the most exciting of their results. For the most up-to-date listing of North American longevities, check the BBL's website (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/).

One mea culpa: In the Significant Encounters column published in *NABB* 26:175, an encounter with a rehabilitated Burrowing Owl was reported. The longevity in the report caught the eye of Geoff Holroyd, who works with the species. Further investigation by Geoff and Kathy Klimkiewicz of the BBL determined that the report is in error and should be retracted. There are multiple things wrong with the encounter as reported, not the least of which is that the band was placed on a Cooper's Hawk! Apparently, information about two birds marked with consecutively numbered bands was mixed together when the encounter was submitted to this column.

Possible longevities in this column were compared to the list published on the BBL website on 8 Aug 2006.

Leach's Storm-Petrel 1151-30990 Banded as Adult-U by Roy Lowe at Saddle Rock OR on 6 May 1981. Band found in gull pellet there on 19 Aug 1997. [Bands found in pellets cannot be used to calculate longevities, since it is not known when the banded bird died. But the band was found 17 years after original encounter.]

Mallard 2397-58296 Banded as HY-U by Dianne Rowell near Madden AB on 13 Aug 1999 following rehabilitation. Shot by hunter on Tule Lake CA on 14 Dec 1999, about 1174 km SSW of release site.

Northern Shoveler 1036-59267 Banded as HY-U by Dianne Rowell near Madden AB on 1 Aug 1999 following rehabilitation. Shot by hunter near Klamath Falls OR on 11 Oct 1999, about 1153 km SSW of release site.

Red-tailed Hawk 0877-17261 Banded as an AHY-U by C.J. Robertson on 18 Oct 1974 at or near New Tripoli PA about 8 mi east of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on the Kittatinny Ridge. Recaptured by Robert Pantle on 28 Dec 2000 on the eastern edge of Lake Ontario NY 365 mi N of banding site. At least 27 years old.

Ring-billed Gull 644-77786 Banded as AHY-U by John L. Cummings at Cabin Island (near Desert Aire) WA on 18 Apr 1995. Found dead at Hermiston OR on 10 Apr 1998, about 68 mi SSE of banding site. At least 4 years old.

Northern Hawk Owl 877-29547 Banded as a flightless chick (HY-L) recently fledged from the nest cavity on 25 May 1987 by James (and Patricia) Duncan at Roseau Bog Owl Management Unit, north of Roseau, MN, 1.5 mi south of the US - Canada border. Recaptured on 6 Jan 1996 by Robert Nero and Herbert Copland at Fort Alexander, MB, about 115.4 miles N of banding site. **8 years 8 months old. Probable longevity record** has been reported to the BBL. [Previously noted in *NABB* 21:21]

Blue-throated Hummingbird 7000-44909 Banded as HY-M by David and Linda Ferry as HY-M on 26 Jul 1987 in southeastern Arizona. Recaptured by Tom Wood and Sheri Williamson in southeast Arizona on 20 May 1995. **At least 7 years 11 months old. Longevity record in BBL.**

Black-chinned Hummingbird 3000-10428 Banded as AHY-F by Southeast Arizona Bird Observatory staff on 17 Apr 1997 at the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area AZ. Recaptured there on 22 Jul 2006. **At least 10 years old. Probable longevity record** has been reported to BBL.

Western Wood-Pewee 1630-94975 Banded as AHY-U by Ken Voget on 26 May 2000 at Torrance Ranch, 7 mi N of Beatty, Nye Co, NV. Recaptured by

Pierre Johnston on 26 May 2003 (exactly 3 yr later!) near Fort Nelson BC, about 2300 km NNW of banding site.

Common Raven 986-01763 Banded as ASY-M by John L. Cummings of the National Wildlife Research Center, Fort Collins CO on 21 Dec 1993. Found dead at Grandby CO in April 1998, about 90 km SW of banding site. At least 7 years old.

Gray Catbird 961-07141 Banded as SY-U by Gladys Cole in Baltimore MD on 13 May 1984. Recaptured by Nick Pulcinella at Island Beach State Park NJ on 4 May 2001. **17 years, 11 months old. Longevity record in BBL.**

Henslow's Sparrow 1880-90193 Banded as HY-U by Jim Johnson at Peason Ridge, Sabine Parish LA on 10 Dec 1996. Recaptured there on 12 Dec 2001. **5 years old. Probable longevity record** has been reported to the BBL.

White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow 1471-82776 Banded as AHY-U by Steven Cox at the Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque NM on 3 Nov 1991. Retrapped there on 21 Mar 1998. **At least 8 years old.** [Current BBL record is 13-04]

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 2131-08870 Banded as SY-M by Janet Shaffer at Bedford PA on 11 Mar 1995. Retrapped there on 12 Jan 2003. **8 years old.** [Current BBL record is 11-04]

"Significant Encounters" came to *North American Bird Bander* as a contribution from the Western Bird Banding Association and its membership. John B. Dunning, Jr. has been the most recent individual involved in compiling these interesting and significant band recoveries.

Barney is a wonderful, jovial biologist who combines a great mix of interests from ecological modeling to basic natural history and he excels at communicating this love of science to students and the public. His service as a contributor to the *North American Bird Bander* is a great example of how combining natural history, science, and people with common interests can be brought together to help increase our understanding on the basic biology and natural history of the world around us.

In preparing "Significant Encounters" for *NABB*, Barney has worked with the Banding Laboratory and many others who contributed in checking accuracy and details of "significant" encounters—a somewhat subjective term to describe banding encounters that were always interesting and often provided insight into bird biology and life history.

Barney Dunning coordinated publication of this feature of *NABB* 18 times: his first appeared in 1987 (*NABB* 12:173-175) when he was at the University of Arizona, followed by eight contributions between 1988 and 1993 from the University of Georgia; he finishes his participation in this *NABB* feature with this ninth submission from Purdue University. And, with this last publication of "Significant Encounters" under his name, the remaining editorial staff wish to extend a grateful **"thank you!"**

Radio Tracking A Swainson's Hawk

Technological advances are moving so quickly that the old mechanisms of reporting are no longer adequate. The analytical, inventive, and biologically based mind should be thinking about the problem as illustrated nicely by the following one-year satellite radio tracking of a Swainson's Hawk (band #1807-12825; radio satellite #25158). Unless we figure out a system that fits best with the least work for banding office staff, researchers will continue to have inadequate access to high quality data on bird migration and travels from many of the radio tracking devices being applied in increasing numbers every year.

My suggestions for discussion are as follows:

1. Ideally, there should be some cross-reference added to banding encounter printouts from the Banding Lab that transmitter data exist.
2. Could banders be encouraged to send in electronically, at a minimum, the data on the farthest point reached and the date, so that the over-worked entry clerks at Patuxent are not given an extra workload?
3. In the event of unusually rapid travel between two points, for example, could those two additional times and places be submitted as well?