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Radio Tracking a Swainson's Hawk

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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?

Adult Female Swainson's Hawk, Saskatchewan to Argentina and back. (Radio satellite #25158 applied 4 miles north, 4 miles west of Kindersley, SK, on 27 Jul 1996. First month locations, all near nest, omitted.)

Signal Quality	Date	Time	Location	Lat.	Long.	Dir.	Distance (km)
1	Aug 26	7:35 am	1 mi E, 1 1/3 mi N of nest	51.5	-109	S	-
0	Aug 26	9:15 am	1 1/2 mi W, 1/3 mi N of nest	51.5	-109	S	-
0	Sep 3	3:37 pm	1 mi E, 3 mi S of Snipe Lake village	51	-109	S	60
0	Sep 3	7:26 pm	2 mi W, 1 1/2 mi N of Isham	51	-109	S	75
0	Sep 10	2:47 am	1/2 mi W, 2 mi S of Isham	51	-109	S	-
3	Sep 22	7:46 am	2 1/2 mi E, 1 1/2 mi S of Sanctuary	50.8	-108	S	110
1	Sep 22	9:25 am	1 mi W, 1 mi S of Sanctuary	50.8	-108	S	-
B	Sep 22	11:05 am	1 mi W, 2 mi N of Saskatchewan Landing	50.7	-108	S	125
A	Sep 22	1:49 pm	3 mi E, 1 mi N of Shamrock	50.2	-107	S	230
0	Sep 22	2:24 pm	S of Alkabo, extreme NW, ND	48.7	-104	S	495
B	Sep 29	6:40 pm	W of Williston, ND	48.2	-104	S	540
A	Sep 29	8:19 pm	25 mi S of Medora, ND	46.5	-104	S	695
B	Oct 5	7:51 pm	St. Anthony, 15 mi S of Bismarck, ND	46.5	-101	S	825
0	Oct 5	1:38 am	St. Anthony, 15 mi S of Bismarck, ND	46.5	-101	S	825
A	Oct 11	7:35 am	Groveton, TX	31	-95.2	S	2,555
2	Oct 17	9:47 am	Tehuacan, Veracruz, Mexico	20.7	-97.3	S	3,585
0	Oct 17	3:09 pm	23 mi N of Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico	19.5	-96.2	S	3,740
A	Oct 23	3:41 pm	SW of Santo Domingo, Nicaragua	12	-85.3	S	4,895
B	Oct 23	6:43 pm	SW of Santo Domingo, Nicaragua	12	-85.3	S	4,895
A	Oct 23	8:32 pm	SW of Santo Domingo, Nicaragua	12.2	-85.3	S	4,875
B	Oct 30	1:37 am	Pta. Chiriqui, n. shore w. Panama	8.8	-81.8	S	5,365
B	Oct 30	3:19 am	Pta. Chiriqui, n. shore w. Panama	8.7	-81.7	S	5,390
A	Nov 17	5:47 pm	W of San Javier, Bolivia	-16	-63.8	S	8,700
0	Nov 24	1:34 am	N. of Otumpa, Argentina	-27.3	-62.2	S	9,905
A	Nov 24	2:14 am	(province of Santiago del Estero)	-27.3	-62.3	S	9,900
0	Nov 30	5:36 am	N of Alejandro Roca, Argentina	-33.2	-63.8	S	10,415
0	Dec 6	2:12 pm	S of Alejandro Roca	-33.5	-63.8	S	10,455
1	Dec 12	6:37 pm	S of Alejandro Roca	-33.7	-63.7	S	10,470
A	Dec 12	8:16 pm	S of Alejandro Roca	-33.5	-63.7	S	10,455
B	Dec 12	9:48 pm	E of General Levalle	-33.8	-63.7	S	10,485
0	Dec 19	1:07 am	N of General Levalle	-33.7	-63.8	S	10,465
1	Dec 19	2:47 am	near Alejandro Roca	-33.3	-63.7	S	10,435
0	Dec 19	5:22 am	near Alejandro Roca	-33.3	-63.7	S	-
0	Dec 25	4:53 am	S of Alejandro Roca	-33.5	-63.7	S	-
A	Dec 25	6:32 am	S of Alejandro Roca	-33.5	-63.7	S	-
1	Dec 31	12:59 pm	E of Alejandro Roca	-33.3	-63.5	S	-
A	Dec 31	2:39 pm	E of Alejandro Roca	-33.3	-63.5	S	-
B	Dec 31	4:40 pm	near Alejandro Roca	-33.3	-63.7	S	-

Signal Quality	Date	Time	Location	Lat.	Long.	Dir.	Distance (km)
	1997						
1	Jan 6	5:49 pm	N of General Lavalle	-33.7	-63.8	S	-
1	Jan 6	7:32 pm	N of General Levalle	-33.5	-63.8	S	-
3	Jan 13	1:33 am	N of General Levalle	-33.7	-63.8	S	-
0	Jan 19	5:43 am	near General Levalle	-34	-63.8	S	-
B	Feb 13	4:56 am	S of General Levalle (farthest south)	-34.3	-63.8	S	-
0	Feb 13	6:38 am	S of General Levalle (farthest south)	-34.2	-63.7	S	10,520

Relatively stationary on wintering location, Nov 30 through Feb 13
Alejandro Roca is at minus 33° 20' South, 63°43' West
General Levalle is at 34°0' South, and 63°55' West

RETURN TRIP NORTHWARD #25158
(Farthest south was -341 634)

Signal Quality	Date	Time	Location	Lat.	Long.	Dir.	Distance from farthest S
0	Feb 19	1:57 pm	near Sastre, N of San Jorge, Santa Fe Prov	-31.7	-61.8	N	325
A	Feb 19	4:46 pm	near Sastre, N of San Jorge, Santa Fe Prov	-31.7	-61.8	N	-
0	Feb 19	6:29 pm	near Sastre, N of San Jorge, Santa Fe Prov	-31.7	-61.8	N	-
3	Mar 4	00:46 am	E of General Saavedra, Bolivia	-17.2	-62.5	N	1,895
0	Mar 4	6:15 am	E of General Saavedra, Bolivia	-17.2	-62.5	N	-
A	Mar 10	5:46 am	Gregorio River, Amazonas, w Brazil	-7.2	-69.2	N	3,060
B	Mar 29	2:51 am	N of Emiliano Zapata, Chiapas, Mexico	16.3	-94	N	6,475
1	Apr 4	8:08 am	10 km W of Cotulla, TX	28.3	-99.3	N	7,905
B	Apr 4	9:49 am	(i.e. 135 km SW of San Antonio, TX)	28.3	-99.5	N	-
0	Apr 16	7:01 pm	20 km NE of Lamar, CO	38.2	-102	N	8,990
0	Apr 23	3:51 am	20 km NE of Lamar, CO	38.2	-102	N	-
2	Apr 29	6:04 am	7 mi W, 8 mi N of Kindersley, SK (4 mi W, 4 mi N of 1996 nest)	51.5	-109	N	10,520

We worried for two weeks by overlong stay at Lamar, Colorado. Was it dead? No, answer by 29 Apr with return to home base near Kindersley.

SIGNAL QUALITY:

B - least reliable
A - second least reliable
0 - acceptable
1 - accurate
2 - very accurate
3 - extremely accurate

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