

2019

Short Notes

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Short Notes

In order to build additional readership and interest in NABB, the WBBA board of directors did some brainstorming at our 2019 annual meeting. One way to do this was to solicit short notes from our banders. These “notes” would be less formal but would contain all of the relevant information that a formal paper would have. It would just be shorter, maybe a quarter or a third of a page. The review process would be minimal.

Topics include unusual or interesting encounters: a longevity record, a bird with an extra or fewer primaries or rectrices, an example of albinism or leucism, a distance recovery record, a novel treatment for a bird injury, deformed bill, or a bird far from its normal range or at an unusual time if the year. A picture may accompany the report if appropriate. Other topics might be a new technique that seems to work for your station. Below are the first such reports to serve as examples. At least for this iteration, both authors have agreed to allow others to use the images in their personal presentations. Contact individual authors for copies.

Send ideas you might have to me:

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One White Retrix

On 16 Jan 2012, we captured a Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) at the Zuma Canyon Banding Station (34° 01' 54" N, 118° 48' 44" W) California with one completely white retrix (right r1). No other feathers were white. A photograph of the rectrices is shown in Figure 1. The bird was aged and sexed as an After Second Year, sex unknown bird.

The thrush was previously banded (1961-08081). Records indicate that the bird was banded as a Second Year, sex unknown bird on 17 Feb 2007, and subsequently retrapped on 4 Dec 2010 and 16 Jan 2012, making the bird 5yr07mo in age. On its initial capture and subsequent return, there was no mention any white feather in the comments section of the data sheet. In fact, feather samples (r6's) were collected in 2007. Since the white is

quite obvious and difficult to miss, it is likely this phenomenon occurred subsequent to its second capture in 2010. Peter Lowther (pers. comm.) suggests that this phenomenon was caused by follicle damage, when the feather was lost.

Hermit Thrushes winter in southern California, and these three captures indicate a site fidelity. On the initial and third captures, the bird was caught in the same mist net.

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P.S. A trick I learned while banding with Ben Leitner is to use a number combination lock. Here I show the last three digits of the band number. This is usually enough information for me to go through my banding records to find the relevant information on the bird in the picture.

Gray Catbird with prominent fault bar

A Hatching Year Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) of unknown sex was banded on 4 October 2019 at The Arboretum on the main campus of Penn State University, State College, PA (40° 48' 32.2148" N, 77° 52' 18.6852" W) in a habitat that consisted of fencerows bordering a meadow.

The bird exhibited what appears to be an example of a major fault bar across the tail (see Figure 1). The bar was approximately 15 mm in width and was present on all the rectrices, except the right r5 which exhibits a white tip and both r6s