

LONG TRIP FOR A TOWHEE  
By Bob McCullough

All my banding is done on a mountain top in north-west New Jersey. I have lots of Rufous-sided Towhees.

In March of this year I received a recovery card for an immature female Rufous-sided Towhee from Jackson, Louisiana. It was banded in August, 1961. When I wrote to the address given I found that it had been shot by a child with an air gun in February, 1963. The map showed that it had travelled about fifteen hundred miles southwest and into flyway #2.

In May I began getting return Towhees, and among them were two birds banded on the same day as the one recovered, also immature birds at the time. This would not mean that they made the trip together and one didn't make it back, but it was interesting anyway.

They seem to be a good family bird. When one is caught they can set up quite a chorus of what sounds like alarm and protest. When one takes a bath they all take a bath, coming out of one point in the woods in a single line at spaced intervals to a little pond I have, as many as thirty I have counted. Both parents keep watch over the young ones, which are often perched motionless in the brush before they can fly well enough.

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