

not remove from the net. On Sunday when we banded 503 birds in almost five hours, she was an old pro at the technique. Thus we ended our Island Beach sojourn with a phenomenal 1189 birds in four days. I am sure that she'll not forget her first stay at Island Beach.

I mention this not only because I am proud of the way she met the challenge, but because there is a lesson in this experience. Undoubtedly there are other banders whose wives, husbands, relatives, friends, etc. watch banding from a distance and cannot be coaxed to participate. Anne would never have believed me if I had told her on the way to Island Beach that by the time we were to return home she would have removed several hundred birds from the nets. But she was on hand, and getting involved turned out to be a perfectly natural thing. Get that sideliners up on the front line and watch what happens.

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WOODPECKER QUESTIONS
By Dr. Charles H. Blake

A few observations and a statement in the Stresemanns' Die Mauser der Vögel (The Molt of Birds) raise some questions about woodpeckers to which banders can find answers.

It is possible to obtain a usable measurement of the short, tenth (outermost) primary by measuring from the end of the tiny coverts sheathing its base to its tip. For the Downy Woodpecker I have a few data. The juvenal tenth is 22 to 26 mm. long and the first winter one is 15 to 18 mm. long. Is this shortening the rule in woodpeckers? What is the amount of shortening? Is there further shortening at the first postnuptial molt or later molts? Is there any sexual difference? Does shape of the tip of the tenth primary differ in successive plumages? How much does the wing length change as a result of successive primary molts?

The Stresemann's emphasize that in woodpeckers the postjuvinal wing molt is peculiar in that the primaries are replaced but not the secondaries. Do the secondaries fade more than the new primaries so that eventually the first winter plumage is recognizable by having the secondaries browner than the primaries? Are the tips of the juvenal secondaries differently shaped from those of later plumages?

The question just above is tantamount to a more general one. There is little evidence that in some passerines the shape of the secondary tips is different in the juvenal secondaries from that of later secondaries. On the negative side of the question I have some evidence that there is no change in eastern titmice and mimic thrushes, the Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Cardinal.

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