

POST-BANDING MOVEMENTS OF ADULT CLIFF SWALLOWS

By David E. Samuel

Lincoln (1939) noted that the Cliff Swallow (Petrochelidon pyrrhonota) migrated through Central America, then up and across the plains to the eastern United States. Bent (1942) however, noted a bird which was banded in South Dakota in June, 1937, and was retaken one month later in West Virginia. This observation prompted me to ask Earl Baysinger for the following data: all recoveries of Cliff Swallows banded in California, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and recovered anywhere; all recoveries of Cliff Swallows recovered in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia regardless of where banded. Thus, I hoped to learn more about the spring migration routes of Cliff Swallows nesting in our area.

As soon as the data arrived from the banding lab, I realized that I had no answer to my question on migration routes. Only one Cliff Swallow of the 6,120 listed was recovered in another state, and that was the one captured in 1937 which Bent described. Almost all (6,091) birds were banded in California and recovered there. Most Cliff Swallows (6,039 of the 6,120) were recovered in the same 10-minute block in which they were banded (and probably the same colony); however, some California birds moved from year to year. Fifty-three birds were recovered in the 10' block adjacent to the one in which they were banded; ten birds moved two 10' blocks, two moved three blocks, 14 birds moved ten 10' blocks, and one moved 11 blocks. Some of these birds were recovered in one 10' block for two to four years before moving to an adjacent block. One bird was banded in a 10' block, recovered the next year in an adjacent block, and recovered the following year in the original banding area.

This data does not allow us to discern movements from colony to colony, nor does it help to answer my original question concerning migration routes. However, it appears that most Cliff Swallows return to the same area year after year. Some adults do change nesting sites from year to year. Mayhew (1958) found that 19% of 4700 birds recaptured were taken at a different banding site. He attributed some of this movement to the trapping operations.

Why do we find no Cliff Swallows recaptured in different states from where they were banded? Probably because migrating birds are difficult to capture and also because adults which are banded at the nesting colonies return to the same area year after year.

Literature Cited

Bent, A.C. 1942. Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows and their allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 179: 538 pp.

Lincoln, F.C. 1939. The Migration of American Birds. Doubleday, Garden City, New Jersey.

Mayhew, W.W. 1958. The biology of the Cliff Swallow in California. Condor 60: 7-37.

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REQUEST FOR GULL REPORTS

During May through July of each year for a five-year period, Ring-billed Gulls (Larus delawarensis) from three Great Lakes colonies will be wing-marked with $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter "Saflag" tags. Each colony is represented by a specific color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population.

Anyone observing such wing-marked gulls is asked to notify Dr. William E. Southern, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Please report each observation of marked individuals even though the same bird may be sighted on different days. The following information is desired: date, exact location, color of marker, and observer's name and address. Your assistance in this aspect of the project will be greatly appreciated. Respondents will receive information pertaining to colony locations and date of marking.