

A TRAVELLING WILSON'S WARBLER

By Vernon M. Kleen

During the past two fall migration periods, I have operated 15 to 20 mist nets at a reservoir near Carbondale, Jackson Co., Illinois (350 miles south of Chicago and 100 miles southeast of St. Louis). During these periods, I have banded many birds and obtained much information about bird migration in southern Illinois which was not previously known for this area.

In the past I have caught many "foreign retraps", but netted my first foreign bird in Illinois on 19 September 1971 -- an adult (AHY-skull completely ossified) male Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla*: 122-60299. It was one of only 19 birds (incl. repeats) caught that day. Upon receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from the Bird Banding Laboratory concerning this recovery, I was surprised to see that this bird had been banded in Vermont. That made me skeptical!

As everyone knows, several banding errors occurred while the Bird Banding Laboratory changed over to computers and unusual banding reports were coming from everywhere. I know that the Laboratory now has nearly eliminated these print-out errors before mailing the information out to the correspondents, but I still needed more proof about this warbler. After contacting Larry Hood and Brian Sharp (both of the banding laboratory) and Mrs. James Downs (who banded the bird), I am convinced this recovery is valid.

Mrs. Downs originally banded the bird as an immature (HY) male (wing length 55 mm) on 4 September 1970, at her home in South Londonderry, Vermont; it was one of seven birds she caught in a water-drip trap that day. I captured the bird just a little over one year later in Carbondale, Illinois (wing length 56 mm; fat class 2; weight 8.2 grams) - a flight line distance of nearly 1000 miles from where it was banded.

The question is: How could a Wilson's Warbler be in Vermont one fall and then in southern Illinois the following fall? My speculation is that the bird was originally from a brood raised in central Canada somewhere north of the Great Lakes. During its first fall migration, the bird, along with countless other inexperienced immature birds, flew (or was carried by the wind) to the southeast where it was caught and subsequently banded in Vermont. It then con-

tinued its migration southward along the Atlantic coast and arrived safely at its Central American wintering grounds. During the spring migration, it moved north through the eastern Great Plains states and arrived back in Canada close to its natal home (Means of navigation unknown - Celestial?) The bird, now an experienced adult, passed through southern Illinois on its second trip south, a more direct route to its winter home.

If anyone has additional thoughts concerning this recovery information, please let me know.

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TWO CATBIRD RECOVERIES

By Robert P. Yunick

A recent Central American recovery of a Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis* that I had banded, and Ken Prescott's summary of a year ago *EBBA NEWS*, 33(3) 143-4, of Catbird recoveries reported in the literature prompted me to review the recovery status of the 943 Catbirds I have banded from 1962 through mid-1971. Only two foreign recoveries of my birds have been made, and I have recaptured no one else's Catbirds in the process.

The bandings are summarized as follows:

1962-63 49 banded at or near Charleston, West Virginia - no foreign recoveries.
 1964-71 698 banded at Vischer Ferry, New York - one foreign recovery.
 194 banded at Island Beach, New Jersey - one foreign recovery.

The recoveries were as follows:

Vischer Ferry Recovery - An HY bird banded on September 11, 1970 and recaptured at the banding site on September 26, 1970 was reported shot in British Honduras 39 days later on November 4, 1970 by H.M. Dawson of Punta Gorda, British Honduras. The recovery point is about 2200 direct statute miles from the point of banding. While it is unlikely that the bird departed exactly on September 26 and arrived exactly on November 4, the average rate of travel during the transpired time is 56 direct statute miles/day.