

Island Beach Recovery - An HY bird banded on September 19, 1965 was found dead 22 days later on October 11, 1965 at Ocean City, New Jersey by E. Cornman, Jr. The recovery distance is about 40 direct miles from the point of recovery. In this case, the bird was banded on and recovered on an Atlantic barrier beach.

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Corrigendum: In EBBA NEWS 35:88, the third paragraph of "Age-ratio of Fall Migrants at an Inland Bird-Banding Station - 1970" by Harriet Marsi contained an unfortunate error. The first sentence of that paragraph should read: Last fall, August 1 through November 10, I banded 591 birds.

[Editor]

COPULATION IN THE TREE SWALLOW

By R.F. Stocck

The paucity of information on the frequency of copulation in the tree swallow, Iridoprocne bicolor warrants further documentation of this subject. The following account may be of value in this respect.

Observations on a pair of tree swallows were made, whenever time permitted, during the nesting season of 1971. These were random sightings occurring anytime during the daylight hours.

The birds nested in a box on a hydro pole near a suburban residence in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. The female was thought to be a first year breeder because (1) there was considerable brown color in her plumage, particularly on the back, (2) she laid the entire clutch of five eggs in an incomplete nest, on the bare floor, then proceeded to add the feathers to the nest and (3) she started the nest late in the season. The swallow was seen at close range five times on the nest. A brief chronology of the nesting cycle is shown below:

Nest box first investigated	May 18
Nest building started	May 31
First egg laid	June 5
Last egg laid	June 10
Nest abandoned	July 2

The swallows were last seen in the box on July 1.

Copulation, as defined in this note, refers to the physical contact between a male and female bird for the purpose of insemination. It took place at various times during the day and throughout much of the breeding cycle as recorded below:

DATE	TIME	PHASE OF BREEDING CYCLE	NO. OF TIMES		LOCATION
			M. MOUNTED	F.	
June 1	07:45	Pre-laying	4		hydro wire
June 4	19:45	Pre-laying	both fell to ground		wash line
June 4	19:50	Pre-laying	4		wash line
June 6	12:15	Laying	4		hydro wire
June 6	14:30	Laying	3		wash line
June 6	14:35	Laying	4		wash line
June 13	17:45	Incubation	5		hydro wire
June 14	20:15	Incubation	5		wash line
June 15	19:55	Incubation	5		hydro wire
June 19	20:00	Incubation	5		hydro wire

At least two attempts at insemination seemed successful (on June 1 and June 6). Here contact between the birds was prolonged with the male grasping the female by the nape feathers with his bill. At this time the female assumed a submissive, crouched posture with tail raised. During what seemed to be unsuccessful attempts at copulation, the female did not refuse her mate but remained completely passive for these much shorter periods of contact.

Both birds actively defended the nest and the female continued to incubate after June 19 when no further copulation attempts were observed.

Examination of the clutch after nest desertion showed that four of the five eggs were fertile, one with an embryo 11.2 mm long.

Since these were only random observations, it is possible that many more attempts at copulation took place than these data show. More significantly, the data indicate that tree swallows (at least this pair) will copulate during incubation. Heretofore this has been an assumption based only on circumstantial evidence (Kuerzi, 1941, Life history studies of the Tree Swallow. *Proc. Linn. Soc. New York* 52-53: 1-52).

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A TOUGH OLD BIRD
By Charles O. Handley, Sr.

The July 29, 1971 issue of the weekly newspaper, The Greenbrier Independent, Lewisburg, W. Va., carried an account of a wild turkey gobbler wearing wing tag No. 1417 that was shot by Conservation Officer Ronald Dillon on the Fork Creek Public Hunting Area, Boone Co., during the past spring gobbler hunting season.

This turkey was netted on October 26, 1963 on the Watoga State Park, Pocahontas Co., and released along with 13 other native wild turkeys on the Big Ugly Public Hunting Area, Lincoln Co., about 200 miles away. Thus the point of recovery was about 17 miles from the point of release.

This recovery is proof of the wandering and life span of this particular individual turkey. It is also proof that the W. Virginia Department of Natural Resources was on the right track when it gave up the release of thousands of so called 'wild' turkeys raised in captivity and resorted to trapping small numbers of native wild turkeys and releasing them on former wild turkey ranges. Very little if any benefit resulted from the release of 'wild' turkeys raised in captivity, whereas the wild turkey has now been established in sufficient numbers to warrant hunting on several areas where the live trapped native wild turkeys were released.

-- C.O. Handley, Sr., Former Chief, Game Division, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.