

**A fawn-colored Black Vulture in Glades County, Florida.**—Recent notes of color abnormalities in Florida birds prompt us to report an old observation of a fawn-colored Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). The individual was noticed circling in a thermal column with other Black Vultures above the Seminole Indian Reservation west of Lake Okeechobee in Glades County at 1130 h E.S.T. on 9 April 1971. The field notes of J.P.H. state only that the bird was brown, but projection of two color slides taken shows that the bird was a soft tan color except for pure white outer parts of the wings (perhaps only the primary feathers). We could not determine whether the eye and soft-parts were pigmented, but the tan plumage rules out true albinism (total loss of pigment) and full leucism (loss of all feather pigment). Soft tan birds are known as fawn variants, due to phaeomelanin when other pigmentation has been lost (Harrison, 1963, *Bird Study* 10: 219-233). In this case the normal black coloration of this species is almost certainly due to eumelanin, so the technical designation of this abnormality would be "non-eumelanin phaeomelanin-eumelanin schizochroism" (see Hailman 1984, *Fla. Field Nat.* 12:36-38). A brief review of "albinism" in North American birds by Gross (1965, *Bird-banding* 36: 67-71) listed 12 cases between the two species of vultures, but is not broken down by species. Gross used the term "albinism" to include "total or pure" (true albinism), "incomplete" (apparently leucism), "imperfect" (probably a variety of phenomena including schizochroism), and "partial" (leucistic feathers). We can say from the review by Gross, based largely on museum skins, only that some form of pigmentation abnormality has occurred previously in the Black Vulture. Obviously, further observations of a more detailed nature would be desirable to clarify albinism, leucism and schizochroism in this species.—**Jack P. Hailman** and **John T. Emlen**, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

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**The Yellow Warbler:** a diurnal circum-Gulf fall migrant.—The Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) is a late summer and early fall migrant, beginning its movement south in July from New England to South Carolina (Bent 1953) and reaching Florida in late July and August (Howell 1932). It is a common fall migrant throughout Florida; August records from Key West and the Tortugas and a record from the eastern Gulf (Buhrman and Hopkins 1978) indicate it makes southward overwater movements. Stevenson (1957) considered it very rare in spring in peninsular Florida and concluded that its principal migration route at that season was along the Texas-Mexican coast and across the western Gulf. From our observations and those of others, we suggest that in late summer and early fall, part of the North American population retraces the spring route and that this movement is both diurnal and coastwise along the northern Gulf Coast. The following observations support this conclusion.

In Florida at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, in the extreme west Florida panhandle, migration begins in mid-July and peaks between 1 August and 10 September. The following observations were made by Robert Duncan and Lucy Duncan at Gulf Breeze: 4 August 1979, 10 birds moved west between 0730 and 0900, singly and in pairs; 5 August 1979, 13 birds moved west singly and in

twos and threes between 0800 and 0900, 15 to 30 m above the trees; 9 August 1979, two birds came in from the northeast over the bay and alighted in trees at sunset; 12 August 1979, one bird flew west across Pensacola Bay pass at 1530; 21 August 1983, 25 birds moved west in small groups between 0720 and 0810, 30 to 45 m above the treetops. Daytime observations of westerly movements were not limited to these specific instances, as the Duncans have consistently observed such movements for over 10 years at Gulf Breeze. At an inland location, Weber noted the distinctive "zzzp" of Yellow Warblers flying west near Blackwater River State Park, Santa Rosa County, 27 km from the coast, on 19 August 1978.

In Alabama, on 14 August 1982, Duncan observed many Yellow Warblers along the treeless part of Dauphin Island at mid-day, feeding as they moved west. On 8 August 1977, C. Dwight Cooley (pers. comm.) counted 24 birds and on 9 August, 33 birds, as they flew west from Ft. Morgan across the mouth of Mobile Bay toward Dauphin Island. They were in groups of two to four and were seen before 0900.

In Mississippi, on 21 August 1978, between about 0645 and 0830, Judith A. Toups (pers. comm.) counted 127 Yellow Warblers as they flew over her residence in Gulfport. The numerous call notes of this species heard just after sunrise indicated a sizable movement was underway. The count included only those seen in an arbitrarily established flight corridor (about 60 m wide and 25 m deep) and did not include birds heard but not seen. Heaviest movement occurred between 0730 and 0800. Birds flew in small groups, the maximum being 11 and most consisting of five or fewer individuals. The birds flew quite low, all in a west or southwest direction. On subsequent mornings, Toups noted small numbers at the same time and place, with a maximum of 19 on 22 August. At the Pascagoula River marsh, Toups, Weber and others observed 10 birds on 12 August 1978, 15 on 14 August 1978, and 10 on 2 September 1978, all flying west along the coastline, either singly or in groups of two to three and nearly all before 0900. Weber, Toups and Robert P. Russell noted similar but smaller movements there in 1977. Myers (pers. comm.) reported seeing "hundreds" of Yellow Warblers flying WSW across Bay St. Louis on 9 August 1961 and smaller numbers on 10 August.

In Louisiana, Myers (1961) noted that he and other observers had seen movements similar to those at Bay St. Louis in New Orleans and elsewhere in the state.

In Texas, at Hazel Bazemore County Park in Corpus Christi, Gene Blacklock has observed numbers of Yellow Warblers on many occasions beginning their migration shortly after sunrise. Movement was toward the south along the coast and on one occasion involved 100 birds (Charles T. Clark, pers. comm.).

The occurrence of diurnal migration is further supported by a relative absence of nocturnal casualties at the WCTV TV tower located 58 km inland near Tallahassee, Florida. Crawford's (1981) data show that in 25 years (1955-1980), considerably fewer Yellow Warblers (85) were retrieved in July, August and September than other early migrants such as Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) 392; Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) 396; Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) 436; Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) 355; Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) 424 and American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) 237.

Although age samples are small, migrant birds banded by Lucy Duncan at Gulf Breeze do not suggest an asynchronous diurnal-nocturnal migration pattern between adults and immatures. Of 44 Yellow Warblers banded during fall migration 1977-1982, 5 were adults, 33 were immatures and 6 were of unknown age. Of 18 Yellow Warblers retrieved from the WCTV TV tower in fall between 1973 and 1975, 4 were adults and 14 were immatures (Crawford 1978). The WCTV tower and Gulf Breeze are about 322 km apart and lie on the trans-Gulf flyway of migrant birds.

In summary, Yellow Warblers in substantial numbers move westward in August along the northern Gulf Coast strongly suggesting that at least part of the North American population is both diurnal and circum-Gulf in its fall migration. These data further indicate that some southbound birds retrace the spring route around the western Gulf as described by Stevenson (1957).

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- Robert A. Duncan, 614 Fairpoint Dr., Gulf Breeze, Florida, 32561 and Wayne C. Weber, Department of Biological Sciences, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi, 39762. (Present address of Weber: 303-9153 Saturna Drive, Burnaby, British Columbia V3J 7K1, Canada).
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#### REVIEWS

**The book of the Wild Turkey.**—Lovette E. Williams, Jr. 1981. Tulsa, Oklahoma, Winchester Press. 181 pp., 32 color photos, 77 black & white photos, 11 maps. \$19.95.—This pleasantly written book, with its helpful illustrations, is oriented toward sportsmen by a biologist who is himself a longtime devotee of turkey hunting. But this orientation should not deter birders. Most of Williams's book is about the natural history of Wild Turkeys, i.e., their distribution, habitat preferences, roosting, feeding habits, displays and calls of the gobblers, the nests of the hens, and the lives of the poults. Much of Williams's firsthand knowledge about the natural history of Wild Turkeys was gained in Florida while he conducted his long-term research at Fisheating Creek, Glades Co., and in the vicinity of Gainesville, Alachua Co. Thus this book is of special interest to Floridians.