

- SHIELDS, W. M., AND T. C. GRUBB, JR. 1974. Winter bird densities on north and south slopes. *Wilson Bull.* 86: 125-130.
- SOKAL, L. W., AND F. J. ROHLF. 1969. *Biometry*. San Francisco, Freeman and Co.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN TEXT AND TABLES

Common Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*; Hairy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos villosus*; Downy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos pubescens*; Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*; Eastern Wood Pewee, *Contopus virens*; Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*; Common Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*; Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*; Tufted Titmouse, *Parus bicolor*; White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*; House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*; Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*; Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*; Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*; Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*; Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*; American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*; Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*; Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*; Rufous-sided Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.

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**Homing of subadult Oldsquaws.**—Through a continuing Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) banding and marking program that I have conducted near Churchill, Manitoba (Alison 1972, unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Toronto, Univ. of Toronto) it has been possible to identify in flocks of subadult Oldsquaws on the breeding grounds individuals that were reared in the same vicinity the previous year. Such identification included individuals captured as flightless young and marked with nasal saddles (Alison 1975a, *Ornithol. Monogr.* No. 18) during July and August of 1974, or unmarked birds banded in previous years and recaptured in 1974 and 1975 within the study ponds.

Male and female subadults are always distinguishable in the field by plumage (Alison 1975b, *Bird-banding* 46: 248-250). From 1968 through 1975 a few subadult males appeared briefly on the study area in only 2 years; otherwise all subadults present were females. Subadults were present in all years, the maximum number being 29 (all females) in 1975. Although a few arrived each year in late May together with most of the paired adults, the majority typically appeared in mid-June. Some were present as late as 3 September. None was ever observed paired.

The proportion of immature females that returned to the study ponds as subadults is unknown, but of 29 subadult females present in 1975, 4 were reared within 1 km of the recapture sites. The ability to home among subadults of duck species that require 2 or more years to reach sexual maturity has not been published previously. Nonetheless it is well-known that some adult Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*), Atlantic Brant (*Branta bernicla*), and others return to their natal area. Homing by adult anatids has been reported in the Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) (Erskine 1961, *Auk* 78: 389-396), Oldsquaws (Alison 1975a), Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), and Redhead (*Aythya americana*) (D. Trauger, pers. comm.), and others as well as among the nondiving species.

Perhaps the most remarkable record involved two subadult females, banded as flightless immatures (#s 547-43136 and 547-43145) at the same spot (in the same net) in August 1974 and recaptured together on 25 June 1975 about 4 km from the banding site. These marked birds, which may have been from the same brood and were certainly from the same communal brood, arrived together on the study ponds 23 June 1975 and, when seen later, were always near each other. Another marked subadult female (number 547-43141), captured in 1974 from the same communal brood, was frequently seen in association with these individuals in 1975 and was recaptured 26 June 1975 on the same pond with them. Although we do not know that these individuals migrated and passed the winter of 1974-75 together, it seems doubtful that, had they not done so, they would have reached Churchill together and remained together on the same pond throughout June and July. These observations suggest not only a fidelity to natal territory but also a mutual fidelity among specific individuals in the subadult population. As the pair-bond is especially strong among adult Oldsquaws (Alison 1975a) it is not inconsistent that similar associations occur among subadults, although the purpose of such behavior is unknown.

Lack (1966, Population studies of birds, Oxford, Clarendon Press) suggested birds might derive a selective advantage from breeding in places familiar to them. Such an advantage probably accounts for the large number of anatid species in which adult females return to their natal grounds to breed accompanied by males encountered on the wintering grounds that may or may not have been reared near the female's home. Similarly, subadult females of those species that do not breed in the first year after hatching might return to their natal grounds to be more familiar with the vicinity when they return to breed in later years. Recaptures of breeding female Oldsquaws marked previously as subadults show that these birds nest and rear broods in habitats they frequented as subadults. Conversely such familiarity would be of no obvious advantage to subadult males, which are not known to return to their natal area as subadults or as breeding adults.—R. M. ALISON, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch, Whitney Block, Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3. Accepted 4 Feb. 76.

**Brown-capped Rosy Finch nesting in New Mexico.**—On 21 August 1976 I located what appears to be the first reported nest of the Brown-capped Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte australis*) in New Mexico. The nest was found in the Sangr  de Cristo Mountains, Santa Fe County, just inside the southern boundary of the Pecos Wilderness Area; the site was a southwest-facing cliff at ca. 3500 m elevation in the northwest basin containing Nambe Lake below Lake Peak. Photographs of the site and of the female near the nest are on file with the New Mexico Ornithological Society (1976-1A-E), Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico.

In the most recent compendium on the birds of New Mexico (Hubbard 1970) this hardy finch is considered as a probable breeder in the state based on two summer occurrences in Taos County: collection of birds on Wheeler Peak on 29–30 July 1904 (Bailey 1928), and the sighting of several birds in the Gold Hill area (ca. 3800 m) on 4 July 1955 (Ligon 1961). Additional summer reports cited in the New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOSFN) Field Notes include four or more seen on Wheeler Peak by W. Hank on 27 June 1971 (1971, NMOSFN 10: 44); two males seen on Truchas Peak, Rio Arriba County, by S. R. Bryan in July 1972 (1972, NMOSFN 11: 49); two pairs seen on Truchas Peak by K. Gietzentanner on 3 July 1976 (1976, NMOSFN 15). In total, summer records of this species have been made in New Mexico 5 different years since 1904, all in the north-central part of the state in the high Sangr  de Cristo Mountains in Taos, Rio Arriba, and Santa Fe counties.

The topography in the vicinity of the nest I found fits the general description provided by Johnson (1975) for new breeding localities of *L. atrata* and *L. tephrocotis*, i.e. a cirque or basin below the steep face of a peak that is timbered to its summit, but where the proper combination of cliffs, shade, and snow accumulation produces an alpine climate at a subalpine elevation. The nest was positioned in a shaded crack 15 cm wide to one side of a large, prominent chimney in the cliff face. Marshall Conway and John Hubbard retrieved the nest 5 October 1976.

When I found the nest it contained three two-thirds grown young. They were fully feathered, with stubby tail and wing feathers, and with tufts of down protruding above the eyes. Both parents attended the young, but I saw the male at the nest only once during 4 hours of watching late in the evening of 21 August and the morning of 22 August. The parent birds were absent from the nest for as long as 20 min. After an absence they never approached the nest directly; instead they flew to several positions on either side of the chimney before flying to the nest to feed the young. When feeding the nestlings the attending adult usually stayed no longer than 15 sec.

Noticeable is the lengthy time gap between the discovery of breeding birds and the first known nesting. Scarcity of observers visiting the alpine parts of the state may be a factor in the tardy discovery of a nest. In addition, the alpine breeding habitat of the Brown-capped Rosy Finch is limited to a few small "islands" within the state, in which the total breeding population is probably never large (perhaps only a pair or two for most suitable "islands") and may be absent in some years. Near Lake Peak I neither saw nor heard any rosy finches other than those at the nest, and I suspect they were the only pair inhabiting the Lake Peak "island" at that time.

Predation on eggs and nestlings may also reduce the probability of locating nests inasmuch as it may make the parent birds more secretive than usual around the nest and/or may at times reduce the meagre breeding population further. French (1955, and Bent 1968) considered Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) to be the major predator on the eggs and young of the Black Rosy Finch (*L. atrata*), and in the basin where I discovered the nest nutcrackers were common. I noticed no hostile behavior directed at the nutcrackers by the rosy finches, even when the nutcrackers flew by the cliff face near the nest. On one occasion the female finch joined a nutcracker in attacking a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) drifting