

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Audubon Warbler Eating Grapes.**—On November 16, 1926, in the eastern suburbs of Stockton, California, while waiting in front of a house where my companion was calling, I saw an Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*) thrust its bill into some grapes lying within a few feet of the automobile in which I was sitting, and drink the juice. This was repeated several times. Wood warblers are generally credited with being mainly insectivorous. It therefore seems worth while reporting a clear case of one of these birds taking any other kind of food, especially fruit juice, which could probably never be identified among stomach contents of collected birds. Audubon Warblers are not very brilliantly colored in November; but they are so frequently seen that any of us amateurs may, I assume, be trusted to make sight identifications.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, November 22, 1926.*

**A Note on the Longevity of the Pintail.**—The longevity of birds is of interest to the ornithological investigator and much has already been written on this subject. Unfortunately, the sources of information have been limited largely to zoological parks and private aviaries which, while supplying important data concerning the span of life that a bird *can* enjoy, fail to furnish a standard by which it is possible to calculate the life term of the bird in a state of nature, there confronted with all the perils attendant upon its every-day existence. The advent of the banding method, particularly through systematic trapping, was promptly recognized as a means of obtaining exact data bearing upon this subject. There can be little doubt that this confidence will be justified by the records from trapping stations, when operations have been carried on continuously for a sufficient period to make possible the computation of proper averages. Obviously, some time must elapse before such records will be forthcoming, and premature deductions should be carefully avoided.

Records from banded game birds will, of course, be reported through the medium of sportsmen, and in this connection the following case seems worthy of record, especially since it appears to represent the longest time record for any bird banded in America. On September 16, 1914, Dr. Alexander Wetmore banded an adult male Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*) at the mouth of Bear River, Utah, using Biological Survey band no. 519. This bird had been suffering from the duck sickness (alkali poisoning) and had been successfully treated and brought to complete recovery by Doctor Wetmore. It was killed on October 16 or 17, 1926, ten miles north of Brawley, California, by Mr. H. W. Seybert. The band was accordingly carried by this bird for 12 years and 22 or 23 days, a most remarkable record, in view of the fact that each season it had run the gauntlet of hunters and also had escaped the poisonous alkali areas and other natural enemies.

The band was of the type that carry the legend "Notify U. S. Dept. Agt., Wash., D. C.," and was made of thin but well-tempered aluminum. Mr. Seybert has forwarded the band to the Biological Survey, and it is in excellent condition. The edges show considerable wear, but the legend and number are clear and legible, indicating that it would have lasted for many additional years. As the bird was adult when banded, it was at least 13 years old when killed.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., January 11, 1927.*

**Some Results of Removing Banded Birds to a Distance.**—In the latter part of August, 1926, while the writers of this paper were at Big Bear Lake, an attempt was made to continue experiments in removing banded birds to a distance, which had previously been commenced by Pierce (*Condor*, xxvii, 1925, p. 120). Bear Lake, with an elevation of about 6750 feet, in the San Bernardino Mountains, is at present some 5½ miles long by a little less than a mile in width, with Baldwin Lake lying about three miles to the east. All the localities mentioned below, with the exception of the slope 1½ miles up Red Ant Creek, are on the floor of Bear Valley; the Red Ant Creek locality is some 500 feet up a one thousand foot ridge overlooking the south side of Bear Lake.

During seven days forty-four Sierra Juncos (*Junco oreganus thurberi*) were released late in the afternoon, at various distances from the Pierce studio at Pine Knot, which is on the south side, and nearly midway from the extremities, of Bear Lake. Unfortunately, time was lacking for the proper care of our birds during the hot part of the day, so that a few were released in a weakened condition, and one died en route to the point of liberation. This should be borne in mind when the percentage of returns is considered, as well as the fact that our activities were carried on just at the time when the young were leaving their parents and, presumably, scattering out, with the loss of attraction to the home locality.

August 14, 1926, of seven Juncos taken to Camp Eureka, two miles east of the Pierce studio by air line, and on the same side of the lake, two returned August 16, and the third on the day following. The first two were immediately taken up Red Ant Creek, which flows past the studio, and released  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles by air line southwest of home. One returned in seven days and was not further disturbed. The other bird returned the day after being taken there, and was this time taken to Fawnskin, which is about two miles north of the studio and on the other side of the lake; the distance by land around either end of the lake, from the studio to Fawnskin, is approximately ten miles. Three days later he was back once more. The third bird, which had returned from Camp Eureka August 17, was taken over to Fawnskin with the last mentioned individual, but was not recaptured. The other four from Camp Eureka were not seen again.

On August 15, 1926, seven new Juncos were taken to the south side of Baldwin Lake, about six miles east in a direct line from the studio. One returned six days later, and was immediately taken to Fawnskin, not to be seen again. The other six failed to appear.

On August 16, eight birds were taken  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles up Red Ant Creek, as in a former case. One returned the 17th, and another the following day; these two were taken to Fawnskin, when recaptured, but were not heard of again. One more returned from Red Ant Creek August 29, and was not further disturbed.

From August 17 to 21, inclusive, twenty-two new birds were taken to Fawnskin; but of these only one, liberated on the 17th, came back, the date of its arrival being August 21. Unfortunately, time was lacking for further experiments, so that it is impossible to say how many Juncos may have come back after August 30, when the traps were taken up. However, although such small numbers were involved, the following percentages of returns from the four localities are given for what they are worth.

1. Those released at Red Ant Creek,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwest of the Pierce studio, 50 per cent.
2. Those released at Camp Eureka, 2 miles east of the studio, 43 per cent.
3. Those released at the south side of Baldwin Lake, 6 miles east of the studio, 14 per cent.
4. Those released at Fawnskin, 2 miles north of the studio, but across Bear Lake, 10 miles by land, 4 per cent.

It is interesting to note that in the case of immature birds, the proportion of returns to the number released is practically identical with that of the adults, although it seems very unlikely that these young birds, so recently from the nest, had ever been near those localities before. Also the return of the birds can not be explained upon the basis of unsuitable conditions, because others of their species nest commonly in these localities, with the exception of Baldwin Lake; and Juncos were there in abundance throughout these experiments.—E. L. SUMNER, JR., and W. M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, November 10, 1926.*

**Traps for Banders.**—The Western Bird Banding Association has had developed and manufactured for sale to banders two types of traps, the four-compartment Potter trap and a Warbler trap. The four-compartment Potter trap (fig. 42, a and b) is a folding trap having the same dimensions, when erected, as the two-compartment Potter trap, namely, 8x8x18 inches. Each compartment is  $4\frac{1}{2}$ x8 inches, and 8 inches high. The four doors are all on the same side of the trap and are automatically tripped by the bird as it enters over the doorstep treadle. The trap folds into a bundle approximately 2x8x18 inches and weighs  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. The feature of having the doors all on the same side makes the trap convenient for setting against or under the edge of