

river from my trapping station. Was reported in by a party from Jersey City, New Jersey, who was touring through Canada.

No. 164845. Banded August 18, 1925, was found on a lawn August 11, 1926, in the Village of Pickford, twenty-four miles south of the Soo.

No. 160792. Banded May 29, 1925, was killed January 22, 1927, at Evensville, Tennessee, about thirty-five miles southeast of Sparta.

No. 190684. Banded May 26, 1926, was shot by some boys near Bonnieville, Kentucky, February 22, 1927, and reported in by the rural mail-carrier.

No. 511952. Banded July 22, 1927, collected August 31, 1927, at Munuskong Bay, twenty miles southeast of Soo.

Information received from Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee is that numerous flocks of Purple Finches winter in those States.

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, September 14, 1927.

THE YELLOW COLORATION OF DOWNY WOODPECKERS

BY C. L. WHITTLE

WILLIAM BREWSTER is referring to abnormal plumages of fledgling Downy Woodpeckers (birds in juvenal plumage), (*Dryobates pupescens medianus*)¹, describes a young male, shot at Upton, Maine, August 1, 1874, which had his white areas, both above and below, of a "decided greenish-yellow tinge". It is not known whether this color determination was made at the time the bird was shot, or later from a skin in Brewster's collection.

The writer finds that the occurrence of this plumage-color on *medianus*, though not usually including the white portions of the upper parts, is very common. During the last five years, both at Peterboro, New Hampshire, and at Cohasset, Massachusetts, numerous instances of the sort have come to my attention, occurring on birds-of-the-year.

In the *Bulletin* of this Association for January, 1926, pages 14 and 15, attention was called by me to this phenomenon as occurring on Downies in juvenal plumage, the particular shade of color being given as chalcidony-yellow when most pronounced. A very pale yellow (approaching massicot yellow) was also observed on the under parts of two adult female birds taken in November and December, 1925.

¹ "Descriptions of First Plumage in Various Species of North American Birds," *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, Vol. III, 1878, Pt. 4, p. 180.

This note places on record several more recent instances of adult Downies having chalcedony-yellow on the under parts as well as in the normally white portions of the outer pairs of retrices—birds several years old, one No. 62904, banded in Cohasset, August 31, 1923, and recaptured July 31, 1927, during the molt; the other, No. 117458 (male), banded at Peterboro, May 2, 1925, the observation being made August 21, 1927, at the time the molt was nearly completed. On August 28, 1927, the yellow under parts of this bird appeared conspicuously in a good light at a distance of twenty feet.

These two examples of old birds with yellowish outer tail feathers are the only two instances of the kind observed by me. Ridgway makes no reference to this coloration as occurring on either young or old birds, and the inference is natural that museum collections of bird-skins of this race do not show noticeable buff or yellow under parts or outer tail feathers, facts indicating that these colors fade in course of time and probably quickly. This latter aspect of the matter is perhaps illustrated by the faintness of the yellow color of the adult birds described above taken in November and December, three to four months after the completion of the molt. From my records I note that Downies captured from January 1st until the time the birds-of-the-year first come to my station are without noticeable yellowish coloration.

GENERAL NOTES

Gull-Banding at Muskeget Island.—The morning of July 12, 1927, dawned with a thick fog present, and most other mornings during July and August have also been foggy. Notwithstanding, I left Martha's Vineyard for Muskeget Island with two helpers to band Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). We reached the island about noon, when banding work began. To one unaccustomed to the clamor of countless sea-birds, the commotion during banding operations provides a thrill not to be forgotten in years. Thousands of Laughing Gulls and Common and Roseate Terns nest here, and the colony of Herring Gulls has grown from nothing a few years ago to at least a hundred pairs to-day. It was a laughable sight to see the clumsy half-grown Herring Gulls scampering off with their characteristic rolling gait. Often the young Herring Gulls would hide alone or in groups of three or four in the long grass of the breeding-ground, and such birds were found with comparative ease. The young birds on Smith's Point, a sand-bar belonging to Muskeget Island, however, have no grass to hide in, so their habit is to run down to the surf and just tumble in. They can swim as soon as born and they have no fear of the surf. They get tossed about a good deal and seem to be in some distress when the ocean is rough, but after a few moments they come back to land, and in a very short time the sun dries out the down with which the young are covered and they lose