

hold a bird captive (if possible, a female, to serve as a caller). This is done only in mild weather. Then too I also may hold an English Sparrow captive if weather conditions permit, in an effort to trap shrikes at the time of year they are likely to be found. A small can placed in a trap will make a favorable shelter, unless too cold weather prevails.

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GENERAL NOTES

Age Records of Pileated Woodpeckers.—One of the questions that have been partly answered by bird-banding is the age possibilities of various species of birds. Birds found dead, or those retrapped some years after banding, have shown at least the age to which the species *can* live, and while probably the average age in the wild is considerably below that shown by an occasional published record of long life, nevertheless the massing of figures resulting from study of banding retakes and recoveries will eventually give a fair average age for a species.

It is understandable that there are and probably will be very few age records for certain species. For these, even a single definite record may be considered to have some, if only very slight, significance.

Very few Pileated Woodpeckers (*Ceophlaeus pileatus* (Linnaeus)) have ever been banded. According to Mr. Seth Low, Biologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, only 40 had been reported banded up to January 1951. Most of these have been nestlings, as there are considerable difficulties in the way of banding adults of this species. With so few banded, it is also understandable that there have been few recoveries. Many Pileateds are shot annually, but most killers of birds of this type just leave the bird lying after a cursory examination, or if they do recognize it as a protected species, are loath to report it. It is possible that some banded Pileateds have been shot and not reported. The chances are very slight, also, that the body of such a bird that had died from natural causes, or from an accident, would be found, in the deep woods and swamps that are their usual habitat.

This paper, however, reports two authentic age records of Pileated Woodpeckers. Altogether there have been six recoveries of banded Pileateds. Two were four months after banding, two were eight months, and these are not significant. The fifth is important. On July 6, 1938, Mr. Harry Pegg banded several nestling Pileateds at Glenevis, Alberta, Canada. In May of 1948, a son of Mrs. Albert Mayer of Cherrill, Alberta, shot one of these birds at a point which Mr. Pegg tells us is approximately 10 miles from the point of banding. Mrs. Mayer reported the band to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and has verified the data in a card to us. This bird was just a month or so short of being 10 years old. Unfortunately we do not know how much longer it might have lived if it had not been shot.

In June of 1941, the writers of this note took a nestling Pileated Woodpecker from a nest in a woodlot near Ithaca, New York, in connection with the life history study of the species by the senior author. The bird, a female known as "Phloeo," was banded with number 37-402707, and was kept in captivity under Federal Permit, the rest of its life. Details of its life in captivity will not be given here, as they have been published elsewhere. The bird died on November 13, 1950, at the age of 9½ years, and this is the sixth "recovery" mentioned above. She was ill only one day, and gross examination indicated kidney trouble. Microscopical examinations are expected to confirm this. She had shown symptoms in the excessive amount of water she had drunk during the last month of her life.

These two age records, one of a bird in captivity, one of a shot bird, do not justify a conclusion that 9 or 10 years is the age Pileated Woodpeckers usually reach. At present, however, these are the only factual records, and it is hoped that there will be other recoveries in the future to add to our data.—J. Southgate Y. Hoyt and Sally F. Hoyt, "Aviana," Etna, New York.