

The problem has been posed; further speculation might be self-deceptive. Banding should tell the true story.

It was later found that there is another difference between the birds considered immature and the evidently adult males. The crown feathers in most males show a very narrow iridescent margin. This margin is bronze green in the immature group and narrower and light blue in the adults.

Aside from the color of the soft parts which I have given elsewhere (Blake, 1956), an adult male weighed 4.3 gr., and a female with a wing length of 56 mm. had a wing expanse of about 135 mm. This would indicate a maximum wing expanse in males of about 170 mm. Gosse gives the equivalent of 162 mm. for the male and I calculate 161 mm. for adult males of average wing length.

REFERENCES

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GENERAL NOTES

Removal of Banded Cowbird Nestling by Veery.—In the course of a nesting study of the Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens*) made at the University of Michigan Biological Station, at Douglas Lake, Cheboygan County, Michigan, in July, 1956, I banded a young Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). At that time, the nest contained two Cowbirds, which had hatched July 4, and one Veery, which had hatched July 5, as well as one Veery egg. Cowbirds do not commonly parasitize Veery nests, and I was interested in how it would work out. I had heard that birds sometimes remove banded nestlings, so, on July 8, at 6:30 p.m., I banded just one of the two Cowbirds. I put a Fish & Wildlife Service band on the right leg, and a red plastic band on the left.

At this stage in the care of their young, the parent Veeries waited a few seconds after feeding the nestlings and then picked up and swallowed the fecal sac or sacs. One hour after the Cowbird was banded, the parent Veery remained on the rim of the nest after swallowing a fecal sac, and made ten vigorous efforts to pick something up from the floor of the nest, but was unsuccessful. Half an hour later, the parent again tried to pick up some object, and this time was persistent. I guessed what was happening, and kept count of the number of times the Veery reached into the nest. After about 15 tries, I could see that the bird was pulling on a leg. By the 39th try, the leg was pulled high enough so that I could see the aluminum band shining on it, looking white, like a fecal sac. At this time the young Cowbird began to make a noise. The Veery kept on pulling, until it had tried 50 times to lift the Cowbird out of the nest. Then it stopped, and sat still on the rim, cocking its head and peering into the nest. After about 15 seconds, it resumed its efforts and tugged with even more force, judging from the way its feet were braced.

On the 65th try, the adult Veery dragged the young Cowbird from the nest and dropped it. Then the Veery flew heavily off with the nestling, settling to earth about ten feet from the nest. One more flight carried the birds out of my sight. At the time of removal, the young Cowbird weighed about 12 grams.

The fact that the Veery's attention was directed entirely to the leg with the aluminum band, rather than to the leg with the red band, makes it seem possible that the color of the band, being similar to that of a fecal sac, released a removal response in the parent. In connection with this, it is interesting to note that immediately after carrying the young Cowbird off, the Veery returned, looked the nest over, impaled the remaining egg (which at this time was three days overdue), and flew off with it. The bird then returned, looked in the nest (putting its head in the nest 13 times), and flew off.

The remaining Cowbird, and the young Veery, survived to leave the nest on July 14, aged ten days and nine days respectively.—Ormsby Annan, 270 Birch Street, Winnetka, Illinois.

(*Ed. note:* for other reports of similar conduct, see *Bird-Banding*, 25: 61, April, 1954, and the references cited therein.)

Distinctions between the Connecticut and the Mourning Warblers.—With the increase in the use of mist nets a larger number of warblers in winter plumage, both adult and immature, will come into the hands of banders. The Connecticut (*Oporornis agilis*) and the Mourning Warblers (*O. philadelphia*) are particularly confusing since females, and young, of these two species really show no color differences. There are, however, other and usable distinctions.

Connecticut Warbler: tail not longer than distance from bend of wing to tips of secondaries; ninth primary not longer than sixth; difference in length of wing (flat) and tail about 22 mm., wing (female) 67-72 mm., tail 47-49 mm.

Mourning Warbler: tail longer than distance from bend of wing to tips of secondaries; ninth primary longer than sixth; difference in length of wing and tail about 12 mm., wing (female) 55-62 mm., tail 43-50 mm.

Note that the tail is measured from the insertion of the middle feathers to the end of the longest feather.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*) is very similar to the Mourning Warbler. The two may even be conspecific. The difference between wing and tail is not more than 8 mm. (usually only 5 or 6 mm.). The tail of the female is 48-58 mm. long. See Phillips, 1947, *Auk*, 64: 296.—Charles H. Blake, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.

RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING

(See also Numbers 16, 17, 18, 38, 50, 76)

1. **XVIth Report on Bird-Banding in Hungary.** (A Magyar Madortani Intezet 1951-1953. Evi Madarjelölési XVI jelentés.) Kalman Warga. 1955. *Aquila* 59-62: 233-251. (English summary.) This, the first of three reports (see numbers 2 and 3 for the others) on postwar banding activities in Hungary published in this issue, presents the data for returns and recoveries of the "old type" rings received in 1952-53. The 262 records are distributed among 49 species, and though a few of them are of recent, postwar bandings with the old rings, most of them are prewar records that have just come to the author's attention, and are published here to present as complete a record as possible of the many data that were lost when the Institute of Ornithology at Budapest burned during the war. Most of the records are repeats and short-term returns in our sense, but the list contains a number of interesting recoveries, chief among them being a dozen or so of *Bombycilla garrulus* banded in Budapest in 1932 and 1933 and retaken within the next year or so in Poland, Norway, Finland, and the USSR. There are a number of Italian recoveries of various songbirds, and two Congo recoveries, one of a *Hirundo rustica*, the other of a *Muscicapa albicollis*, both prewar.—O. L. Austin, Jr.