

neossopiles in this species. However in view of the numbers of exceptions to the generality that lack of natal down accompanies the hole nesting habit, it does not seem wise at present to attribute too great a significance to this. The Thraupidae seem to offer a particularly interesting opportunity for further work on the natal pteryloses and the taxonomic and evolutionary implications of this plumage.

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## LITERATURE CITED

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## GENERAL NOTES

**Song Sparrow Possibly Nests 75 Miles from Birthplace.**—A Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) banded as an independent immature at Prince of Prussia, Pa., on July 19, 1960, was found in Baltimore, Md., on July 24, 1962, with its banded leg caught in a split pipe (not a result of the banding): the leg had to be cut off to free it. Mrs. Robert W. Trout, the bander, states that the sparrow never repeated for her. Marvin J. Yiengst, the finder, had not to his knowledge seen the bird before its mishap, and through the following October I had not seen it again. The July dates suggest that it was on or near its natal territory when banded and on its nesting territory when recovered; it may, then, have been breeding about 75 airline miles southwest of its birthplace.—Hervey Brackbill, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

**Two New Bird Records for Interior Alaska.**—On August 12, 1961, while mist-netting in the Minto Lakes area, 50 miles west of Fairbanks, I captured and banded an immature Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*). A second bird was netted and banded on August 17 and four others were seen in the area on August 18. According to Gabrielson and Lincoln (*Birds of Alaska*, 1959: 691-694) these are the first records for this species from the interior.

On September 17, 1961, while banding Common Redpolls (*Acanthis flammea*) in the vicinity of Fairbanks, I netted and banded a Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). Gabrielson and Lincoln (*Birds of Alaska*, 1959: 765-767) have no records for this species from interior Alaska.—Willett T. Van Velzen, 432 W. Allegan St., Otsego, Mich.

**A Mutual Display of the Catbird.**—At dusk on 25 May, 1959, I observed a mutual display of the Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*. I was in the "Hellcat Swamp" area on Plum Island, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newburyport, Massachusetts. The display was witnessed for about ten minutes from 1950 hours, E. S. T., in very poor light conditions (sunset, 1909 hours, E. S. T.; civil twilight, 31 minutes). The birds were about twenty meters from the point of observation.

At first, only one individual was noted. Its action was confined to an area of a dirt road, within three meters of dense brush along the road. The "pattern of

dance" included low, rodent-like runs, interspersed with a series of exaggerated hops with a body-rocking motion, the tail slightly spread and elevated. Following out to three forward hops (away from the brush), the individual jumped into the air, and with a moth-like flight, rose to a height of twenty-five to thirty centimeters (one such "jump-flight" to one and one-quarter meters was noted). The bird landed with the tail spread or fanned and raised, the head lowered, and usually turned laterally looking back at the brush. This sequence was repeated several times, the bird returning to the vicinity of the brush with a run-hop or run alone.

After two or three minutes, the displaying individual was joined by a second Catbird from the brush. The display was then repeated by both birds at a somewhat higher intensity.

The two birds remained laterally oriented to one another, except during the run-hop-jump flight sequence when the displaying individual moved away from the "partner." Returns to the vicinity of the other bird or a following run by the non-displaying individual gave the dance a pattern of a rough figure-eight. Both birds moved together less than half of the time; when both were moving, the hops usually alternated. The jump-flight was performed by only one bird at a time. Each bird watched the other throughout the display.

Following a run-hop-jump-flight series, the displaying individual sometimes repeated the pattern immediately after returning with a run or run-hop sequence to the vicinity of the observing bird if not followed by that bird during the display. More often, however, the individual assumed an "alert" upright posture with the head held high and upright, the tail lowered and slightly spread. The other bird then took over and performed a display sequence.

Occasionally the final jump-flight was omitted, the sequence ending with a "bow" away from the watching individual. In this case, the tail was spread and raised upright to about 75° from the horizontal, the head lowered and turned toward the "partner." This spread posture appeared to be identical to that following the jump-flight, and was held for several seconds. This posture would display the rusty under-tail coverts to the other individual (if indeed they could be seen in the light present at the time of the display).

No song or other vocalization was heard during this display. No sequence was seen to terminate either in solicitation or attempted copulation. Both birds performed with equal intensity. The display terminated when one bird flew into the nearby brush, the other one following to the same area after about five seconds.

The following evening, 26 May, a similar display was witnessed in the same location at the same time of day. However, only one bird was seen, and the performance lasted only about five minutes.

From these incidental observations, pending detailed behavioral studies of the Mimidae, this display seems to be a mutual display involved in pair-formation or pair-bond maintenance in the Catbird. A mutual display in a species without sexual recognition if my assumption is correct. The use of the under-tail coverts in the display is of interest in re-emphasizing the correlation of plumage color patches and display movements.

This work is a by-product of field study under a National Science Foundation Grant. I would like to thank Dr. Andrew J. Meyerricks and Mr. Jack P. Hailman for their suggestions on this manuscript.—Carl W. Helms, Department of Biology, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

**White-throated Sparrow Banded at Vancouver, B. C.**—On May 15, 1962, I trapped and banded a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), which I identified as an adult male in full breeding plumage. I reported this information to Dr. V. D. Udvardy of the Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, and Mr. William M. Hughes (8755 S. W. Marine Drive, Vancouver 14), as I wished to verify my identification of this unusual bird. I took the bird to the University, where Dr. Udvardy substantiated my identification. Both Dr. Udvardy and Mr. Hughes believe that this is the first record of the species in the vicinity of Vancouver during the spring migration, and possibly the first trapped and banded in this area.

I released the bird on my return to my banding station at my home, and the bird returned many times to the trap. It also stayed around for a week, being retrapped with other birds everyday.—Mrs. Dorothy M. Bradley, 1848 Mathers Ave., West Vancouver, B. C., Canada.