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RECOVERIES OF BIRDS BANDED BY ENCEPHALITIS FIELD STATION, 1957-1965¹

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Bird recoveries add greatly to knowledge of bird distribution and migration. They also help contribute to the understanding of the role birds might have as transport hosts of certain arboviruses. Many of the problems faced in the study of the epidemiology of Eastern, Western and St. Louis Encephalitis perhaps could be solved if more were known of the northward, southward and reverse migrations of birds.

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TABLE 1. RECOVERIES OF BIRDS BANDED BY ENCEPHALITIS FIELD STATION, 1957-1965

Species	A G E	Place Banded (all in Massachusetts)	Date Banded	Date Recovered	Location Recovered	Approx. Distance in Miles	Dir- ect- ion	Days Since Banded
Broadwinged Hawk	A	Raynham	14 June 1961	15 Feb. 1965*	Trujillo, Venezuela South America	2400	S	1342
American Woodcock	A	"	2 Aug. 1962	18 Nov. 1962	Seekonk, Mass.	16	SW	108
Mourning Dove	A	E. Middleboro	22 March 1959	22 Dec. 1959	Lyons, Georgia	920	SSW	275
"	A	"	24 March 1959	8 Oct. 1960	Mitchellville, Maryland	405	SW	563
Blue Jay	A	"	18 May 1962	6 Aug. 1962*	near Braintree, Mass.	18	NNW	90
American Crow	A	Taunton	13 Jan. 1960	15 Sept. 1965	Norton, Mass.	4	NE	2073
"	A	"	11 March 1960	10 Aug. 1965	Mansfield, Mass.	7	NE	1979
"	A	"	11 March 1960	3 June 1964	Milton, Mass.	23	NNE	1544
"	A	"	11 March 1960	16 July 1960	Cumberland, R. I.	17	NW	127
"	A	"	12 March 1960	24 March 1960	E. Bridgewater, Mass.	11	NE	12
"	A	"	12 March 1960	23 April 1960	Norton, Mass.	4	NE	42
Fish Crow	U	"	17 Oct. 1958	24 April 1962	Bridgewater, Mass.	9	NE	1284
"	A	"	11 March 1960	15 Oct. 1960	N. Attleboro, Mass.	11	NW	218
"	A	"	11 March 1960	19 Sept. 1961	Dracut, Mass.	51	N	557
Catbird	A	Raynham	10 May 1961	21 Dec. 1962*	Greenville, Fla.	1070	SW	590
"	A	"	25 May 1962	19 July 1962	Millbrook, N. J.	205	WSW	55
Starling	I	Marshfield	22 March 1957	8 April 1959	Long Pond, Maine	255	N	137
"	I	Taunton	5 Aug. 1958	23 Nov. 1960	Cumberland, R. I.	17	NW	841

*Approximate Date

NOTE: If the date recovered is approximate, the days since banded will be an approximation also.

Species	Place Banded (all in Massachusetts)	Date Banded	Date Recovered	Location Recovered	Approx. Distance in miles	Direction	Days Since Banded
Redwinged Blackbird	A E. Middleboro	11 April 1958	3 May 1959	Sandwich, Mass.	24	SE	387
"	"	10 May 1962	26 May 1963	Halifax, Mass.	2	N	381
"	"	28 March 1963	13 Jan. 1965	Jamestown, S. C.	770	SSW	657
"	"	13 May 1963	19 Sept. 1964	Trenton, N. J.	250	NW	494
Common Grackle	A "	20 Oct. 1963	9 April 1965*	S. Easton, Mass.	12	SW	537
Evening Grosbeak	A "	15 Jan. 1960	27 Dec. 1961	near State College, Pa.	390	SW	713
"	"	17 Jan. 1960	24 April 1962	near Gatlinburg, Tenn.	830	SW	828
"	"	3 Feb. 1960	13 March 1960	Duxbury, Mass.	11	NE	39
"	A Carver Center	20 Feb. 1960	7 Feb. 1964	Elkins, W. Va.	440	SW	1448
"	"	26 March 1960	18 May 1961	Botestown, New Brunswick	420	NNE	481
"	"	2 April 1960	15 May 1960	Newcastle, New Brunswick	460	NNE	43
Evening Grosbeak	A Carver Center	2 April 1960	20 April 1961	Adams, Mass.	130	WNW	384
"	"	2 April 1960	19 March 1961	Westminster, Vt.	130	NW	352
"	"	12 March 1961	10 Feb. 1962	near State College, Pa.	390	WSW	335
"	"	31 March 1961	20 May 1961	Astle, New Brunswick	420	NNE	50
"	A E. Middleboro	11 March 1963	28 Jan. 1964*	Dumont Lake, Allegan, Michigan	782	WSW	323
"	"	11 March 1963	25 Jan. 1964	near Wautoma, Wisc.	937	W	320
Purple Finch	A "	24 March 1959	14 May 1961	Kingston, Mass.	7	NE	783
American Goldfinch	A Carver Center	18 March 1961	29 Nov. 1961	E. Middleboro, Mass.	8	NW	256
Rufous-sided Towhee	I Raynham	2 Oct. 1962	12 Oct. 1962*	Freeport, Long Is., N. Y.	159	SW	10
Slate-colored Junco	A E. Middleboro	7 April 1959	6 March 1960	S. Carver, Mass.	9	SE	335
Song Sparrow	I "	11 Aug. 1959	31 March 1960	York, Maine	80	N	233

*Approximate Date

NOTE: If the date recovered is approximate, the days since banded will be an approximation also.

Since 1957 the Encephalitis Field Station has been capturing and banding birds in Southeastern Massachusetts as part of its study of natural history of Arboviruses. During this time, approximately 10,000 birds have been banded and 41 of this number have been recovered away from the immediate banding sites.

Table I represents the history of these 41 recoveries. The most distant recovery and our only inter-continental recovery is a Broad-winged hawk banded in Raynham, Massachusetts and recovered near Trujillo, Venezuela, a distance of approximately 2400 miles from our banding site. The bird was collected 1340 days after banding.

Actual travel time is subject to speculation. Our fastest recovery of a migrant was a Rufous-sided Towhee banded 2 October 1962 in Raynham and found dead on Long Island approximately 160 miles southeast about 10 days later. Unfortunately the exact date of death was not reported to the banding office.

Reverse migration probably occurs when a bird in migration is caught up in a strong flow of air and over-shoots its "target". When this occurs, it may return (fly back) to its ancestral breeding area. A Catbird banded on 25 May 1962 in Raynham might be an example, as it was recovered 19 July 1962 in Millbrook, New Jersey. This is very early in the summer for an adult to leave the breeding grounds to migrate South.

A second possible example of over-shooting the breeding area may have been a Song Sparrow banded 11 August 1959. It was classified an immature bird and presumably a local resident. On 31 March 1960, during spring migration, this bird was killed by a car in York, Maine, a distance of 80 miles north of the banding site in East Middleboro, Massachusetts.

Anderson (1965) reported two cases of East-West migration from Evening Grosbeaks. Both birds were banded the same day and recovered three days apart in Michigan and Wisconsin. Of interest is that 33 per cent of our recoveries were Evening Grosbeaks.

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