

the longest, the 7th and 6th tend to be but slightly shorter; the 6th is often as long as, or only slightly shorter than, the 7th (usually less than 2 mm. shorter); the 6th is usually slightly longer than the 9th. That wing shape is correlated with length of migration seems to be indicated further by the fact that *P. r. cooperi*, the race of the Summer Tanager breeding in southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico, which is at most a short-distance migrant (not reported wintering south of Mexico), shows a more rounded wing than the highly migratory eastern race. Of 30 adult specimens of *cooperi* examined, while all had the 6th primary slightly shorter than the 7th, 23 had the 6th slightly longer than the 9th (a few of these perhaps the same length); only 7 had the 6th definitely shorter than the 9th. Of course, these comparisons assume remiges that are full grown and not excessively worn. Length of primaries here refers to relative extent of the tips of the feathers without flattening (not to over-all dimensions of individual remiges from their insertion at base).—E. Eisenmann, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y. 10024.

White-breasted Nuthatch Bill Abnormality Corrected by Wear.—On November 2, 1963, I banded a male White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) whose maxilla extended about 2 mm. beyond his mandible and curved up at the tip. I did not then measure culmen and gonys, but on January 26, 1964, I found these to be 20 and 16 mm. respectively; the maxilla now extended 1.5 mm. beyond the mandible. On the same day another male's culmen was 18 mm., which agrees with the .70 inch given by Chapman (Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America, 1940: 397); this bird's gonys was 16 mm. Again on April 19 I trapped the first male; his culmen then was 17.75 mm., gonys 14.25 mm., and the tips of the bill were even. So over the winter the excessive growth had been worn away and a normal bill attained. Mason (*Bird-Banding*, 33: 100, 1962) has reported a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) whose excessively long mandible "corrected itself."—Hervey Brackbill, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland.

An Apparently Melanic Hairy Woodpecker from New Mexico.—While studying specimens of various species of *Dendrocopos* in the American Museum of Natural History, I came upon an oddly plumaged Hairy Woodpecker taken at Folsom, New Mexico. The specimen (A.M.N.H. No. 363272) was collected on 9 October 1918 at an elevation of 7,500 feet, and is from the collection of Austin Paul Smith. Two other specimens taken at the same locality on 9 and 13 October 1918 are typical of the large, and sharply contrasting white and black subspecies *Dendrocopos villosus monticola*. The aberrant specimen, an adult male, exhibits a reduction of white on its back—only the central back feathers show any white, and the white occurs mixed with black as barring. Instead of the large white wing spots of *D. v. monticola* this male's wings have but traces of spotting in two areas of the primaries (near their base, and about midway in their length). In contrast to this dorsal restriction of white, the white of the underwings is extensive, almost forming a white patch. This ventral white is on the inner vanes of the flight feathers, which normally have large white spots in the race *monticola*. Indeed, the four outermost secondaries on each side have typical white spotting. The closed wing, however, appears all black.

The facial pattern of this male is abnormally black; the white superciliary stripes are restricted and the white subocular stripes are almost eliminated anteriorly by the broadened black malar and anterior auricular stripes. The malar stripes are virtually black, without the white marking normally found in the Hairy Woodpecker. Its nasal tufts are dusky white with black infringing on its borders. Posteriorly the black malar stripes become much broader, forming a large black patch before the shoulder; this patch continues onto its sides. The sides and flanks are heavily streaked with black, many feathers being entirely black on their inner vanes. Medially the streaking is less pronounced. Overall the black of its sides considerably restricts the ventral white coloration, especially in the lower throat and lower breast regions. Posteriorly the markings form conspicuous bars on the flanks of the specimen. The outer rectrices are heavily barred in this specimen. The outermost (sixth) rectrices bear three full bars, as do the inner vanes of the fifth and the fourth rectrices. The outer vanes of the fourth rectrices bear one incomplete bar, and those of the fifth rectrices have two bars. Hairy Woodpeckers (most races) normally lack barring on the outer rectrices, or at most show traces of a single bar.

Finally, the bill of the aberrant male is ivory-colored, except for brown coloration along its tomtia. Hairy Woodpeckers normally have a black bill.

This specimen is unusual even for a melanic individual in its ivory-colored bill, and its broadened white wing markings. I have considered the possibility of its representing an interspecific hybrid (e.g., *D. villosus* x *Picoides tridactylus* and *D. villosus* x *D. scalaris*). However, the structure of its bill and feet, and its body proportions show no tendency toward species of *Picoides*, and it does not exhibit tendencies toward *D. scalaris* in aspects of its morphology other than its barred tail. The cause of this woodpecker's peculiar coloration is not known, but hybridization appears not to have been involved.—Lester L. Short, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y. 10024.

Non-homing by Incubating Screech Owl Released Four Miles from Its Nest.—When checking Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) nesting boxes in Licking County, Ohio, on April 19, 1956, a Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) was found incubating two eggs in one of the nesting boxes. The bird was removed from its nest and transported to an area about four miles westward where it was marked and released. Because I had no bird bands with me at the time, the bird was marked on the head with airplane dope. There were seven nesting boxes within 100 yards of the site where the Screech Owl was released, but four of the boxes contained active Wood Duck nests. None of the seven boxes contained Screech Owl nests.

When checking nesting boxes three days after the release had been made, the marked Screech Owl was found in a nesting box about 60 yards from the release site. The eggs in the Screech Owl nest received no further incubation, further indicating that the removed Screech Owl did not later return to its nest.

Failure of this bird to return to its nest over such a short distance suggests that the Screech Owl may lack homing capability. Lack of homing capability may be an important part of the explanation for the failure of the species to develop migratory behavior. Bent (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey. Part 2. Bull. 170 U. S. Natl. Mus., 260, 1938) reported this species to be non-migratory, although he stated (*ibid*, 258) that, "probably some migration takes place from the northern part of their summer range."—Paul A. Stewart, Entomology Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Oxford, North Carolina 27565.

One Week Flight of a Least Sandpiper.—In the late afternoon of Sept. 2, 1967, a Least Sandpiper, *Erolia minutilla*, was mistnetted at Rice Lake (520-1070), twenty miles west of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It had a wing chord of 86 mm. and a weight of 23 grams when caught; band number 104-177408 was applied. That weekend, a total of 188 individuals of 21 species were netted along the shallow mudflats at the south end of the shallow marshy lake, using ten nets. Leading the list were 56 Semipalmated Sandpipers, *Ereunetes pusillus*, 51 Savannah Sparrows, *Passerculus sandwichensis*, and 49 Least Sandpipers.

Early on September 9, less than seven days later, 104-177408 was again caught in a mist net—this time along the east edge of the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area, Great Bend, Kansas (382-0983), about 930 miles southeast of the initial banding location. Between dawn and 8.30 a. m. that morning, using three mist nets, 125 shorebirds of eight species were banded, including 54 Least Sandpipers and 48 Western Sandpipers, *Ereunetes mauri*.

Each of us has had only one other distant shorebird recovery. A Pectoral Sandpiper, *Erolia melanotos*, banded east of Saskatoon (521-1061) on Sept. 20 1961, was shot near Yanskij, Yakutia, U. S. S. R. (683-1344E) on May 28, 1963. (Houston, *Bird-Banding*, 36: 112, 1965). A Semipalmated Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*, banded at Great Bend on April 27, 1968, was collected August 1, 1968 at Chappice Lake, Alberta (501-1102).—C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, and Edmund F. Martinez, 5851 Hemlock, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.

Avian Tuberculosis in a Swainson's Thrush.—The final Swainson's Thrush, *Hyllocichla ustulata swainsoni*, of the 1967 Saskatoon fall migration was mistnetted for Operation Recovery in the backyard of the senior author on Sept. 22, 1967. When band 104-177591 was applied, it weighed 29½ grams and had a wing chord of 99 mm. Skulling disclosed the incomplete cranial ossification of an immature bird. No abnormality was detected at the time of banding although