Finally, the bill of the aberrant male is ivory-colored, except for brown coloration along its tomia. 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, *Hylocichla 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

its weight was very low for a bird that should have been about to resume migration. Only two others of this species banded between August 30 and September 22 weighed less; the average of 21 immatures was 32.2 grams and of 31 adults, 33.5 grams and of two unaged birds, 35.5 grams.

Instead of continuing migration with other members of its kind, 104-177591 repeated in the mist net on the morning of October 1. Observing the mistnetting were J. M. Potter, neurosurgeon from Oxford, England and J. W. Gerrard, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Saskatchewan. A large multiloculated yellowish swelling in the left neck below the mandible aroused our medical interest. It had somewhat the appearance of a multiheaded carbuncle but felt "meaty." We could express no pus, but learned only later that birds do not form pus. The thrush was now very thin and we speculated as to whether it had a granuloma or a rapidly growing malignancy. The bird was submitted alive next morning to the junior author for examination.

After sacrifice, autopsy disclosed multiple small peritoneal nodules. A smear from the submandibular lesion disclosed the presence of acid-fast organisms but no parasites. On histological examination, there were numerous foci of a granulomatous nature with numerous giant cells; their centers had undergone caseous necrosis. The diagnosis was: Avian Tuberculosis.

Avian tuberculosis is rarely reported from wild birds, perhaps because they succumb to their disease and because few are examined by a Veterinary Pathologist. The definitive text on the subject (Feldman 1938) cites the occurrence of avian tuberculosis in a great variety of captive wild birds but in free-living wild birds of only the following North American species: Common Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*; Common Raven, *Corvus corax*; Barn Owl, *Strix pratincola*; Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, and Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius*. There are more recent reports of the disease in a Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus* (Snoeyenbos 1966) and in a Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* (Yates and Miller 1966).

Bird banders may make a contribution to our knowledge of avian disease by submitting diseased birds or fresh specimen to a Veterinary Pathologist.

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C. Stuart Houston, M.D., 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, and Leander Tryphonas, D.V.M., Ph.D., Engeriedweg 2A, Bern, Switzerland (on sabbatical leave from University of Saskatchewan College of Veterinary Medicine).

## RECENT LITERATURE

### BANDING AND LONGEVITY

**(See also 16, 68)**

**1. An interpretation of the age structure and breeding status of an Adelie Penguin population.** Brian Reid. 1968. *Notornis*, **15**(3): 193-197.—This should frighten even the hardest of hearts: "Banding and close observation during seven summers caused the breeding population in six colonies at Cape Hallett to decrease by more than 90%." The effect seems to have been brought about by at least four factors: (1) high chick mortality due to checking nests; (2) scaring off of birds returning to breed for the first time; (3) abandoning of good nest sites due to disturbance in favor of poorer ones with less disturbance; and (4) low breeding rates in birds that did return to the colony. The species holds its own when undisturbed, and may even be increasing slightly.—Jack P. Hailman.