

The four recovered birds were:

	Banded at Somesville	Recovered at Brunswick
No. 31-43553	12 Feb.	26 Feb.
603	20 Feb.	25 Feb. at 06:45
617	23 Feb.	26 Feb.
641	24 Feb. at 14:35	25 Feb. at 06:45

Although the maximum possible travel time is known for only one bird, it seems reasonable to assume that these four birds travelled together, at least 96 miles in approximately 16 hours. BARBARA N. PATTERSON, *Somesville, Mount Desert, Maine 04660*. Received 22 March 1973, accepted 30 March 1973.

Returns of North American birds to their wintering grounds in southern Mexico.—Migrant and wintering populations of North American passerines in the tropics and subtropics have long been neglected in favor of resident species. Recently, mist-netting and banding studies have provided detailed information on populations in British Honduras (Nickell, *Bird-Banding*, **39**: 107-116, 1968), Panama (Loftin et al., *Bird-Banding*, **37**: 35-44, 1966), and at other sites, most of them in Central America. I began studying wintering North American passerine populations at four localities in Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico in December-January 1970-71 and began a banding program the following winter. To date, field work has been restricted to three-week periods in mid-December-mid-January corresponding to the college "intersession." Netting was confined to four small areas (each under 10 acres) because of time limitations and to allow more thorough study of the four habitats. Winter populations seem fairly sedentary, and the resulting sample sizes are small.

An unexpected result of the study to date is the remarkably high return rate during the second winter of banding—10% of the birds banded the previous year. In 1971-72 we banded 289 individuals of 26 species, and the next winter 29 individuals of 14 species returned (Table 1). In fact, returns accounted for 17% of

TABLE 1. Return of selected North American species to the same wintering grounds in southern Mexico.

	Banded ^a 1971-72	Returns 1972-73	Banded ^b 1972-73
Crested Flycatcher	7	2	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	1	4
Least Flycatcher	18	4	23
Wood Thrush	89	2	19
Solitary Vireo	3	1	4
Black-and-white Warbler	3	2	6
Worm-eating Warbler	5	2	4
Magnolia Warbler	15	2	10
Ovenbird	24	2	23
Kentucky Warbler	14	3	13
MacGillivray's Warbler	7	1	9
Yellow-breasted Chat	14	4	10
Hooded Warbler	2	2	7
Painted Bunting	11	1	5
Totals	214	29	139

^aAn additional 12 species (75 individuals) produced no returns.

^bAn additional 46 individuals (12 species) were banded.

the 168 birds (of these species) handled during the second winter. Net-hours were about the same during both years but daily coverage was more uniform the second year. In three study areas nets were placed in the same locations the second year, and in at least some instances a bird returned to the exact site where it was banded the previous year.

J. Van Tyne first reported the return of a North American migrant to an identical wintering area (Van Tyne, *Bird-Banding*, 3: 110, 1932). Six of 99 Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) banded by him at Uuaxactun, Guatemala in April 1931 were retrapped there the following April by A. L. Smith. Recently, Downer (*Bird-Banding*, 43: 287, 1972) reported numerous returns of Indigo Buntings to a Jamaican site, some for seven years. Nickell (1968: 108), and others have reported at least 32 species returning to identical winter quarters in successive or later years. To this list may be added five others: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), Least Flycatcher (*E. minimus*), Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) and Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthecros vermivorus*). This list will probably grow until it includes most of the North American passerine species wintering in the tropics and subtropics.

The number of new birds banded in 1972-73 are included in Table 1 as a means of comparing the numbers of each species handled during the two seasons. It shows, with a few exceptions, that the number of birds (for a given species) handled in 1972-73 was near or slightly above the 1971-72 number. This slight increase may be due to more efficient netting. The decline in Crested Flycatchers (*Myiarchus crinitus*) and Painted Buntings (*Passerina ciris*) is because local opposition forced the abandonment of one area used in 1971-72 in favor of an alternate area. The decrease in number of Wood Thrushes (*Hylocichla mustelina*), however, is a "real" decrease supported by field observations both in the study area and in similar forest habitat at other localities. Both Wood Thrushes and Swainson's Thrushes (*H. ustulata*) were noticeably uncommon in 1972-73 as compared to the previous year. Dr. Dennis Breedlove (pers. comm.) reported that 1972 was unusually dry in Chiapas, and this could account, in some way, for the decrease. Comparison of the four populations and their respective habitats and analysis of the age, sex, and subspecific structure of the populations await further field study and larger sample sizes.

I wish to thank the following for field assistance: Richard Crossin, Jan Ely, Jerry Johnson, Juan Nava, Max Thompson, Jerry Wilson. Banding was authorized by the Direccion General de Forestal y de Caza, Mexico, D. F. and the U. S. Bird Banding Laboratory. Field research was supported in part by a grant from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund. CHARLES A. ELY, *Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas 67601*. Received 12 March 1973, accepted 4 April 1973.