

GENERAL NOTES

A Method for Aging Orange-crowned Warblers in Fall.—No method for aging Orange-crowned Warblers (*Vermivora celata*) by use of plumage characteristics is known other than the one suggested by Foster (*Condor*, 69: 1-12, 1967). She used primary wing tips: blunt and wide in adults and narrow and more centrally pointed in immature and first-year birds. Use of this method requires experience and considerable judgment.

While banding migrants in central Illinois in the fall of 1975, we noticed that Orange-crowned Warblers showed basically two plumages. When we checked the plumage characteristics against the degree of skull ossification, we found that the differences could be used as an aging method in *Vermivora c. celata* (applicability of our method for other subspecies is unknown).

The plumage characteristics of the adults and immatures differ in the head region, although the adult generally has more yellow in the plumage, especially ventrally. The significant characters used in separating adults and immatures in fresh fall plumage are shown below.

Plumage character	Adult	Immature
Crown	Greenish	Gray (almost hood-like effect)
Throat	Yellowish	Grayish-white
Eye-ring and Superciliary line	Yellowish	Whitish
Streaking on breast	More definite	Blurred

Colorations of these two age groups for this subspecies in the fall are quite distinct, and it is amazing that the distinction has gone unnoticed. Possible explanations include the facts that the Orange-crowned Warbler is not common on the East Coast and that several subspecies occur in the West.

Between late September and late October 1975, we aged 48 Orange-crowned Warblers (14 adults and 34 immatures) by the method stated above. In each case there was a positive correlation between the plumage characters and the degree of skull ossification.—H. DAVID BOHLEN, *Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Ill. 62706*, and VERNON M. KLEEN, *Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, Ill. 62706*. Received 19 June 1976, accepted 20 July 1976.

Green Heron as a Potential Prey Species of the Broad-winged Hawk.—

Avian surveys were conducted 21-23 May 1974 in a series of three kettle holes on the Montague Plain, in Franklin County, near Greenfield, Massachusetts. Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) dominated the bases and sides of the kettle holes. Ponds, surrounded by a dense growth of meadow-sweet (*Spiraea latifolia*) and *S. tomentosa*, were present in two of the kettle holes.

On 22 May, as we approached the larger pond, a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) flushed from the meadow-sweet and was attacked by a Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). The hawk made contact with the heron approximately midway across the pond, but soon released it. We were in clear view of the hawk and our presence probably caused cessation of the attack. Following the attack, the Green Heron sought cover in a dense clump of meadow-sweet, and the Broad-winged Hawk flew into the surrounding woods. The Green Heron uttered repeated "squawks" during and after the attack. We waited approximately 15 minutes, but the hawk did not return and the Green Heron did not leave the protection of the dense cover of the meadow-sweet.

The behavior of the hawk suggests two possible activities. Either the hawk was nesting in the area and the attack on the Green Heron may have been harassment or it may have been an attack on a prey. We have no evidence that the hawk was nesting in the immediate area, but the presence of numerous adult and larval bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), a common prey of this hawk, suggests that the hawk was probably hunting around the pond.

Prey of the Broad-winged Hawk is generally small and includes insects, frogs, lizards, snakes, and small mammals and birds. Larger prey species of this