

NOTES

TENNESSEE WARBLER OBSERVATIONS IN OREGON

On 12 June 1963 Eugene Kridler (1965) collected an adult female (USNM #479637) Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, Harney County, Oregon. This represented the first record of the species in the state. Kridler also banded and photographed (color transparencies on file at refuge H.Q.) an immature on 15 October 1963 at the same locality.

Since 1963, nine additional Tennessee Warblers have occurred in the state, seven at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge H.Q. One was observed with Orange-crowned Warblers (*Vermivora celata*), Wilson's Warblers (*Wilsonia pusilla*), and Warbling Vireos (*Vireo gilvus*) by Joseph Hicks on 11 September 1969 fifteen miles north of Medford, Jackson County (Harry Nehls, pers. comm.). Another, associating with Audubon's Warblers (*Dendroica auduboni*) in a stand of Whitebark Pine and Engelmann Spruce near Mirror Lake in the Willow Mountains, was observed on 9 August 1971 (John Butler, pers. comm.).

The Malheur records include two observed on 29 May 1964 by John Crowell and Jim Olson (Scott, 1964), and banded by Fred Zeillemaker on 31 August 1965, and single birds banded by Walter L. Anderson on 24 August and 3 September 1966. On 31 May 1971, Carroll D. Littlefield captured an adult female, and on 12 June 1971 Anderson captured an adult male; both were banded and photographed.

Larrison and Sonnenberg (1968) list the Tennessee Warbler as a rare straggler into eastern Washington and mention no spring records. The species is considered a casual fall vagrant in western Nevada based on an observation east of Lake Tahoe on 29 August 1969 by Robert P. Russell, Jr. (Scott, 1970). In California the species is now recognized as a rare but regular fall migrant or vagrant (Baldridge et. al., 1970 and McCaskie, 1971).

The species can now be considered an occasional spring and fall vagrant in southeastern Oregon. Possible explanations for the occurrence of the Tennessee Warbler and other typically "eastern" species in California have been advanced by (1) Aaron M. Bagg (1970), who reasoned that such species might reach the California Coast as drifted migrants by following easterly airflows from the Gulf of Mexico to the Far West, and by (2) David DeSante whose orientation studies led him to believe that the birds should be classified as "misguided migrants," flying directly from breeding territory to wintering areas along routes atypical of the species as a whole (Chandik et. al. 1971). The latter hypothesis would be strengthened by the observations of the species in the fall in Oregon. A chronological comparison of observation dates in Oregon and California suggests a logical migratory sequence between the nesting grounds in Western Canada and the wintering areas in Mexico and Central America. Whether the fairly regular sightings in recent years indicate a minor change in the migratory patterns of a population or simply reflect an increased observational effort remains to be established. The use of mist nets at Malheur has accounted for seven of the eleven known records in Oregon, and perhaps the true extent of the migration of this species through Oregon still awaits discovery.

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