

CATBIRD RECOVERIES, 1938-1969

By Kenneth W. Prescott

A recent recovery of a Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis) at East Quinan, Nova Scotia, Canada, on 20 July 1969 which I had banded at Island Beach, New Jersey 30 May 1969, led me on a search through the literature for other Catbird recoveries. Published accounts of recoveries substantiate a very wide winter range for this species which is generally known through sight observations and/or specimens collected. The following are recoveries published during the last 31 years. Because they give known dates and geographic locations for an individual bird they may shed light on possible movements of local migrating populations from widespread areas of the breeding range.

The arbitrary groupings listed below are based on initial banding localities from similar geographic areas. The banding locality and date is given first, followed by the recovery locality, date and reference source (BB=Bird-Banding, EBB=EBBA News).

North Dakota

Northville, 09-20-36; Tauxpam (Vera Cruz) Mexico, 01-01-37; Cooke, BB, 9:188
Wilton (Bismark), 08-23-36; Madison, Wis., 09-12-36; Gray, BB, 19:160

Michigan

Lansing, 09-24-43; Sidell, La., 10-31-43; Cooke, BB, 21:146

Massachusetts

Vineyard Haven, 07-21-57; Ramsey, N.J., 09-24-57; Dater, EBB, 21:104

New York

Elmhurst (Queens Co.), 04-12-33; Yonkers, N.Y., 09-26-33; Beals, B8, 10:11-12
" " " 10-14-37, Newport, N.J., 10-26-37; Beals, loc.cit.

Pennsylvania

Norristown, 08-17-43; Litchfield, Conn., 02-09-47; Middletown, BB, 29:230-231
" 08-01-47; Miami, Fla., 11-11-47; Middletown, loc.cit.
" 07-12-56; Northville, Tenn., 02-13-63; Middletown, EBB, 32:226
Coatsville, 05-14-48; Phila., Pa., 07-06-49
and Smith's Is., Md., 05-06-50; Rossman, EBB, 14:5

Virginia

Leesburg, 07-01-57; Raleigh, S.C., 10-02-57; Dennis, EBB, 21:18

New Jersey

Little Beach Is., 09-23-61; Towson, Md., 11-07-66; Frohling, EBB, 31:26
 Island Beach, 09-11-66; Homestead, Fla., 03-27-69; Fisk; EBB, 32:150
 " " 09-23-67; Homestead, Fla., 01-19-69; Fisk; loc. cit.
 " " 05-30-69; East Quinan, N.S., 07-20-69; Prescott, EBB, _____

While interesting, this spread of returns is too small in number to encourage one to generalize on diverse migratory movements of the species. Yet, the North Dakota bird taken in Vera Cruz, Mexico and the various birds banded in Pennsylvania and New Jersey taken in Florida suggest a movement of Catbird populations west of the Mississippi to a winter range quite distinct from those banded on the east coast. Although the subsequent movements are unknown of the North Dakota bird taken approximately three weeks later almost directly east in Wisconsin, it does seem to deny this simple hypothesis. The Norristown, Pennsylvania bird banded in August as an IMT by Middletown and subsequently found in Connecticut (in February) approximately four years later may have been a bird migrating from New England. If so, it would fit the general pattern of east coast Catbirds moving southward toward Florida and other south-east coastal areas.

There may well be additional unpublished Catbird recovery data in banders' home files which would add to our understanding of this species' seasonal movements. I look forward to seeing others add their data from past and future recoveries. Similarly, it is important to get significant data on recoveries of all species into print as soon as possible. While individual banders of Catbirds (above) have not been identified, further information can be obtained from the reference cited.

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