Winter 1974

EBBA News

### Ludwig, F. E. 1970. Eight years banding at Port Huron, Michigan: 1962-1969. Jack-pine Warbler 48:10-17.

Table shows annual totals for 131 species with recovery rate for each.

#### The Daily Rhythm of Hawk Migration at Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. H. C. Mueller and D. D. Berger, Auk, <u>90</u>, 591-596. July (1973)

Raptor banders are familiar with the differences in behavior of various species with regard to activity during the day. Like people, some start their day early to finish early, while others start late and finish late. This paper attempts to document the autumnal migration activity of 16 species of hawk during the day using field notes from 1958 to 1961 as representative of data from many more years of observation at a trapping station in Wisconsin. The authors conclude that the autumnal migration of accipiters peaks in the early morning, that of buteos late in the morning, and falcons in the early afternoon. Harriers have an early peak, and Ospreys show no peak. On the other hand, the trapping percentage of all species varies little through the day, suggesting that there are no peaks in hunger.

#### <u>A New Method to Separate Immature and Adult Hummingbirds</u>. F. I. Ortiz-Crespo, Auk, <u>89</u>, 851-857, October (1972)

Immature and adult hummingbirds have usually been separated on the basis of plumage criteria, but in many species found north of Mexico the immatures resemble adult females. The author of this paper has found that in immature hummingbirds lateral surfaces of the culmen are ridged by minute oblique corrugations which are lacking in the adult. Examination with a lOx hand lens helps to reveal the distinction between the rough bill (immature) and the smooth bill (adult). The criterion is easy to apply and does not require any procedure as drastic as dissection. The paper deals mainly with species outside our area, but there are results for the Rubythroat also.

## AGING & SEXING AMERICAN REDSTARTS IN FALL By Mrs. Roger W. Foy

In his article in EBBA News (Vol 36: 143) of August "Report on Aging & Sexing Criteria for American Redstart," Mr. Dan Gray failed to mention whether the two American Redstarts (<u>Setophaga</u> <u>rutticilla</u>) in the museum skins marked Female were among those discarded as unreliable: 1) had black on breast, mid-back and crown; 2) had orange (this was a Spring bird) breast patches and underwing linings with stronger orange than a large number of similarly plumaged Spring Males.

Rather than trying to dispute the validity of museum skins and past sources of information on this bird, I have turned my knowledge and energies to working with live birds in the hand.

A percentage of the Fall HY birds reaching us the beginning of September already have molted their juvenile plumage on the wings and tail. Upon close observation of a percentage of the Fall HY birds reaching us the beginning of September I find the following:

1) shades of orange on breast, underwing lining and tail varied from one bird to the next.

2) the amount of orange also varied from one bird to the next.

3) wings and tail are dark brown to black.

For the past two Fall migrations (1971 and 1972) notes were made after carefully examining each bird and I find in the (presumedly) Male, wings and tail are dark brown to black with varying shades and amounts of orange. The following scales for shades and amounts of orange were utilized.

1) 0 - 1 - 2 - 3 for grading the SHADE of orange on: a) sides of breast; b) underwing lining; c) tail -

- 0 yellow to yellow orange
- 1 orange
- 2 strong orange
- 3 heavy or deep orange

2) for grading the AMOUNT of orange -

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none to visible small medium large

All of the HY birds were examined in sunlight or artificial simulated sunlight, all had unossified skulls. The September birds tend to have 1 - orange - small and by October/November they become 3 - orange - large. In the latter birds the dark brown/black appears more intense as does the orange. The orange on each bird is the same identical shade on all three areas. Any bird that had less than 1 - orange - small is not included pending a later paper. The birds with a few black feathers on head, neck or breast are entirely too small to be conclusive.

In view of the above I would suggest that banders <u>could</u> use the following for aging and sexing HY Male birds provided they use the shade and amount scales for grading the orange (for Fall birds only);

grayish back with dark brown to black wings and tail with 2 - orange - medium . . . HY M

grayish back with dark brown to black wings and tail with 3 - orange - large . . . HY M

grayish back with brown, dark brown to black wings and tail with 1 - orange - small . . . HY U

grayish with 0 - yellow to yellow orange - none to visible . . . HY U

I would greatly appreciate learning from a few of the southern banding stations their findings when using the above scales for grading HY Males in the Fall.

--Box 164 Ship Bottom, New Jersey 08008

#### NEW ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mrs. Joseph M. Briggs, of 11 Carpenter Street, Middleboro, Mass. 02346, agreed to represent EBBA NEWS in her area. We hope to find qualified persons for other areas too, particularly in areas outside of the states/provinces covered by EBBA, where there are satellite groups of members living fairly closely together. Dorothy Briggs is a member of EBBA and NEBBA, the Brookline Bird Club, and she's a reporter for the Bird Observer of S. E. Massachusetts.

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