

Table 1 B. Calabozo, Venezuela

	Weeds	Young rice	Mature rice
Males	14	8	6
Females	16	8	1
Percent female	53.3	50.0	14

Table 2. Average wing length of male Dickcissels in various habitats

Sample size Wing length in mm	A. Acarigua, Venezuela			B. Calabozo, Venezuela		
	Sample at bathing area*	Caught in Sorghum	Eating Sorghum	Weeds	Young rice	Mature rice
	62	17	11	14	8	6
	82.83	83.78	84.61	80.52	81.44	82.42

*These were supposedly a random sample of the regional population, as Dickcissels come to bathe in large communal groups.

--Stephen Fretwell and Tom Shane

RETURNS OF TRANSIENT WARBLERS TO A COASTAL STATION

By Mrs. Roger W. Foy

The return of a transient warbler to its place of banding within a specified period of time is rather unusual. It has been stated that when there is a close agreement between the dates of handling there is a good reason to suspect that the individual bird concerned is in fact a transient. Such is the case with at least one, if not all three Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) banded at my station (for a detailed description see EBBA News, Vol. 34 (4) on November 19, 1972, as a HY-U(M?), band no. 1290-59476. This bird returned within two weeks of original date of banding a year later on November 4, 1973, as a SY-M.

Some might call this particular bird in question a "doubtful transient", but to us it is a true migrant. When the bitter winter comes to this barren coastal beach (January, February & March) we are hard pressed to see a Yellow-rumped Warbler, much let alone net or trap one, and we are in operation year 'round since July 1969.

In December 1968 EBBA News, Ian C. T. Nisbet asked for records of returns of species which are known only as transients in area of banding station. He made two categories;

- 1) GOOD TRANSIENTS: species is not known to breed or winter regularly within 100 miles or more
- 2) DOUBTFUL TRANSIENTS: banding station lies on edge of, or within the breeding or wintering range of the species

Eight inland stations responded with eight (8) definite and nine (9) doubtful returns (L. S. Ryan updated his list with one definite and three doubtful returns in 1970; P. W. Woodward added one definite in 1972). Except for three "doubtful" transients from Manomet and Tobay stations, none were reported from a coastal station, despite the enormous number (now over a million birds) banded at O.R. Stations. It has been generalized more than once, one has to band 1000 or more individuals annually for 5-10 years to have a fair chance of obtaining a return.

In Ship Bottom, out of six Spring birds, all banded in May, none have been caught on a subsequent day. Spring birds apparently move right through. The Fall birds present a little different picture:

1969 - of the seven Yellow-rumped Warblers banded in August, October and November none repeated within a week or more later.

1970 - of the fifty-eight Yellow-rumped Warblers banded in September and October none repeated within a week or more later.

1971 - of the seventy-four Yellow-rumped Warblers banded in September, October and November, three or .040% repeated within a week.

1972 - of the one hundred and seventy-four Yellow-rumped Warblers banded in September, October and November, two or .011% repeated within a week.

As you can see from the above, the only months we can account for Yellow-rumped Warblers in our area is May, August (1 year only), September, October and November. This gives the picture of my region being neither breeding or wintering area for this species.

We have had two other Yellow-rumped Warbler returns since 1969; 1) 1260-51367 - banded 10/30/71 as HY-U, returned 4/11/72 as SY-F; 2) 1260-51399 - banded 12/19/71 as HY-U(M?), returned 4/9/72 as SY-M. All three of the birds in question were originally banded in the Fall migration, however, none repeated in either of the years. The two birds above I would class as "doubtful transients" only because of the comparatively short span of time between banding and returning.

John Bull's "Birds of the New York Area" and Witmer Stone's "Birds of Old Cape May" indicate that a nesting Yellow-rumped Warbler (in my area) would be highly unlikely. In addition, none have been seen or captured in my region between the nesting season of June 1 through August 15th.

While I cannot be absolutely positive, the evidence indicates to me that the three returning Yellow-rumps are indeed true transient returns to this coastal station six miles at sea.

Literature Cited

NISBET, 1969 Returns of Transients. EBBA News, 32: 269-274

RYAN, 1970 More Migrants Warbler Returns. EBBA News, 33: 35-36

WOODWARD, 1972 Another Return of a Transient Song Bird. EBBA News, 35: 101-102

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BARN OWL RECOVERY

By Alan B. Schroeder

On 3 July 1971 six immature Barn Owls (Tyto alba pratincola) were banded in an old water tower at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, Rhode Island, by L. O. Gardner. Near the end of December of 1971 one of the young owls (786-97217) was killed by an automobile near South Jamesport on Long Island, New York; approximately 80 miles, in a direct line, from the banding site.

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(Photo by Alan B. Schroeder)

