

istic, if valid, could be used to separate male from female; but I have found on my birds that several have one or two yellow feathers among the white of the lesser coverts, which confuses the issue.

On Male Plumage Development

Note that Ridgway indicates that males in their "second or third" year are similar to adult females. Does any one know how long it takes a male Icterus galbula to attain its full black and orange plumage? My notes separate three types of tails in May and early June - the ragged bronze of the SY immature; the fully adult black and orange (though there are some more yellow than orange); and an intermediate stage which has the rest only smudged, or spotted with black. These latter birds are still speckled black and yellow-brown on the head and throat. This would indicate that it takes at least three fall molts for the fully adult plumage to be attained, but the implication in Ridgway's statement is that it takes longer.

Here are studies for banders - those lucky enough to recapture birds from previous years, those who handle females with brood spots and can check the upper wing bar, those who will compare the appearance of the rectrices with the colors of the rest of the plumage.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

On 22 May, 1975, Mrs. Katherine Price advised me that the long awaited reprint of Dwight's classic is off the presses. Please watch subsequent issues of EBBA NEWS for further details how to obtain your copy and cost.

Editor

Kathleen Klimkiewicz asked us some time ago if we would coordinate publication of new age/sex techniques with the Bird Banding Laboratory prior to publication. Her reason is largely one of economics. Whenever someone publishes completely new information, the B.B.L. receives hundreds of letters questioning new procedures, particularly when these do not particularly agree with techniques currently in effect. Rather than performing this cross-check from this level, I would prefer that the author establishes a line of communications with the B.B.L. before submitting his/her paper to EBBA NEWS, or for that matter to any publication. By doing this, you would greatly assist the Bird Banding Laboratory and through this line of inquiry you would enhance the value of your notes or thesis.

Editor