

D. Stripe Characteristics of Birds of Known Sex

— From a sample of 85 siskins in breeding condition, the data in Figure 4 were gathered. The sample was 53 percent male and 47 percent female. The ratio of bright and pale stripes was 40/60. Among the 51 pale birds, the ratio of males and females was 45/55; and among the 34 bright birds, the ratio of males and females was 65/35.

In examining the top graph of Figure 4, a line can be drawn which separates a group of females from the rest of the pale sample. This group represents 28 percent of the sample and is made up of birds above and to the left of the line. Similarly in the bottom graph of Figure 4, a line can be drawn which separates 41 percent of the bright sample as males. These birds are below and to the right of the line.

Thus there is an indication from this limited sample that a method exists for identifying a portion of the males and females of this species. However, I still regard the use of these criteria as tentative, and do not recommend their use as yet. Additional data are needed to verify their reliability, and to more accurately establish the limits of the criteria.

As more siskin invasions occur, further data will be collected in an attempt to better define a means of determining age and sex in this species.

Conclusions

Examination of the wing stripe characteristics of the Pine Siskin revealed that singular use of either stripe width or stripe brightness is not a reliable means of determining age or sex in a significant portion of this species. Stripe width increases in some succeeding plumages, and the exact change in stripe brightness is not yet clearly determined.

In a limited sample, the simultaneous use of stripe color, stripe width and wing chord length allowed separation of 28 percent of the pale females and 41 percent of the bright males.

References

Yunick, Robert P. 1970. The Pine Siskin Wing Stripe and its Relation to Age and Sex. *EBBA NEWS*, 33: 267-274.

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An Ovenbird at least seven years old

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Among North American Wood Warblers, adult Ovenbirds appear to have a particularly good chance of survival from one year to the next. Generally the average annual survival of adult Wood Warblers is around 60%, but an Ovenbird population in Massachusetts had an 84.5% annual survival chance (Roberts, 1971). Nevertheless, seven-year-old warblers are rarities. One example was published recently in this journal: it was a Canada Warbler which had become eight years old (Pantle 1973).

Near Lost River, Quebec (coordinates 455-0743), I have been banding warblers during fall migration for several years. Of 34 Ovenbirds banded between 1969 and 1975, only one individual has been recovered. An adult bird was banded on 6 September 1969 with band 52-49332. Some time in

early July 1975, Mr. Anthony Graup, Laval, Quebec, accidentally killed this bird with a lawn mower while it was incubating on its nest. The distance between location of banding and the recovery was less than 300 feet. From the circumstances of the recovery one can conclude that the bird was a female and belonged to the local breeding population.

References

Pantle, R.J. 1973. A warbler recovery. *EBBA NEWS* 36: 165.

Roberts, J.O.L. 1971. Survival among some North American Wood Warblers. *Bird Banding* 42: 165-184.

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