

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Movements of Trumpeter Swans Shown by Band Returns and Observations.**—Trumpeter Swans (*Olor buccinator*) have been caught and banded in the Peace River District near Grande Prairie, Alberta, during field operations over the past three summers. Each bird was banded with the standard aluminum band issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and in addition was banded for individual field recognition with variously colored plexiglas leg bands.

In 1954, sixteen cygnets were banded and three were recovered subsequently. Two of the recovered swans were shot about a month after they were banded, on the lake where they were hatched. The third recovery was made on June 5, 1955, when the remains of a swan banded at Saskatoon Lake, near Wembley, Alberta, on August 22, 1954, were found on the Buffalo Fork of the Snake River in Idaho by Jay R. Fisher of Ontario, Oregon.

Twenty-nine cygnets and one adult swan were banded in 1955. Three of these, wearing yellow bands, were observed in flight by Winston E. Banko, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, on January 26, 1956, near the Railroad Ranch along the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Idaho. An employee of Ponds' Lodge on the Buffalo Fork of the Snake River reported seeing a yellow band on a large cygnet on the upper waters of the Fork a few weeks earlier than Banko's observation. At least one, and possibly two more yellow-banded swans were seen by J. Hartshorne of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at the Culver Pond feeding grounds, Red Rock Lakes Refuge, Montana, on March 15, 1956, according to a report from Mr. Banko.

An adult male, caught and banded while flightless at Hughes Lake near Grande Prairie, Alberta, on August 28, 1955, was seen with his mate and cygnets on the same lake during the summer of 1956. Four other cygnets banded in 1955 were seen on Saskatoon Lake on May 16, 1956. Two of these belonging to the same family were banded at Lowes Lake near La Glace, Alberta, on August 27, 1955. A third was banded on Saskatoon Lake on August 29, 1955.

Evidence that the cygnets of a family remain together for at least the first year after hatching was obtained when three of the cygnets banded at Lowes Lake on August 27, 1955, were shot in Nebraska in 1956. One was shot and killed at Shoup Lake near Valentine, on October 27, 1956. Another was shot and killed at Schoolhouse Lake in the Valentine area on the same day. The third was picked up severely wounded on the Loup River near Fullerton on November 2, 1956.

During the summer of 1956, eight adults and fourteen cygnets were banded. Two of the cygnets banded on Lowe Lake on August 22 and 23, 1956, were recovered, probably shot, near Cody, Wyoming, on or before October 27, 1956.

From the foregoing information it is apparent that Trumpeter Swans raised in the Peace River District of Alberta migrate to the northern United States and mingle with swans from the Red Rock Lakes Refuge in Montana during the winter months. The breeding range of swans that winter along the coastal and western interior portions of British Columbia has yet to be delineated.—R. H. MACKAY, *Canadian Wildlife Service, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, June 6, 1957.*

**Observations of Pair Relations of White-headed Woodpeckers in Winter.**—On January 25, 1957, I watched a male and a female White-headed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos albolarvatus*) foraging in a forest of white fir, ponderosa pine, and incense cedar situated about one-half mile south of Wawona in Yosemite National Park, California. These observations were made over a period of one hour and fifteen minutes. During this time the birds stayed within an area about 30 yards in diameter.

Three times the female flew to the dead top of a 70-foot ponderosa pine. Each time she began to call very loudly and rapidly. The first two notes of the call resembled the normal sharp call of the White-head. The notes following were a series of two to four somewhat longer notes reminiscent of the mewing call of a sapsucker. At first she called about once every three seconds. As the calling continued, the frequency of the calls fell to about once every fifteen seconds. After about five minutes of calling, she stopped and sat quietly in the top of the tree, looking from side to side for from 30 seconds to nine minutes.

Each period of silent resting ended abruptly when the male flew into a small tree near the base of the ponderosa pine in which the female was sitting. When the male thus approached the area, the

female became very excited and then suddenly dived with partly folded wings toward the tree into which he had flown. When she reached the level of the male, the female extended her wings and landed in the tree near him. Each time a chase through small trees followed in which the birds pursued each other from limb to limb. Then suddenly they paused and both returned to feeding. The male drummed only once during this period of observation. This was done on the dead top of a 75-foot ponderosa pine, not the same tree as that used by the female. I saw or heard no reaction to this drumming by any bird.

These observations seem to indicate that White-headed Woodpeckers are paired during the winter and that in this period they are responsive to their mates and engage in some form of courtship or pair reinforcement behavior.—GERALD ROBINSON, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, March 1, 1957.*

**Rufous-sided Towhee in Colorado.**—An immature male Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*) in first autumn plumage was collected on October 26, 1956, at Hillside Road, Boulder, Colorado. The specimen is number 6206 in the collection of the University of Colorado Museum at Boulder. This is the first confirmed record for the eastern subspecies in the state.

The specimen was sent to Robert W. Storer of the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan for comparison with a series of this subspecies in that collection. Dr. Storer stated that the bird agreed very well with specimens of *P. e. erythrophthalmus*, although the back feathers had somewhat more brown on their tips than most of the fall-taken male towhees with which it was compared.

The bird was first heard calling in a lilac thicket, just after sunrise. This area, near Middle Boulder Creek, is apparently attractive to eastern bird stragglers because of its mesic condition. A fair amount of shrubby undergrowth is present. A Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), a new record for Boulder County, was seen in the same area on September 28, 1956.—OAKLEIGH THORNE, II, *Thorne Ecological Research Station, Boulder, Colorado, May 25, 1957.*

**Cape May Warbler in Central America.**—On November 21, 1952, I collected an adult male Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) at La Rioja, near Boca de Barranca, which is situated on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. This species winters, for the most part, in the West Indies; it has also been reported from several offshore islands, some of which are in sight of the mainland, along the Caribbean coast of the Yucatán Peninsula and Central America. There seem to be, however, only two previous records from the mainland itself, both from the Yucatán Peninsula (Boucard, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1883:440; Peters, Auk, 30, 1913:378). The Costa Rican specimen, therefore, represents not only the first record for that country but also for all of Central America. In addition, it extends the mainland range southeastward some 600 miles. Moreover, the occurrence of the bird almost within sight of the Pacific beaches, rather than on the Caribbean slope of the country, seems to be particularly noteworthy. The specimen is housed in the George M. Sutton Collection.

During the last week of December, 1954, I saw this species on the Caribbean slope twice, both times in the same locality about three miles south of the town of Turrialba, Costa Rica. On one occasion I saw two birds, and on the other a party of at least six individuals. The birds, all males, were actively foraging in trees bordering the western rim of the gorge of the Raventazón River.

The presence of a small band would appear to indicate that the birds were not windblown vagrants as might otherwise be inferred from the presence of but a single individual. The late dates suggest that the Cape May Warbler may be an occasional winter visitant in Costa Rica and perhaps in other Central American countries as well. These occurrences may further suggest that the species had been experiencing a periodic increase in numbers, or that it may be in the process of extending its wintering range to include the mainland. The additional possibility remains that the wintering Cape May Warbler may be a wide-ranging wanderer in Central America where it had previously escaped observation.—PAUL SLUD, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 2, 1957.*

**Breeding Record of Pintail in Humboldt County, California.**—Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:77) report no breeding records of the Pintail (*Anas acuta*) for the northwestern part of California. Therefore, the following observation is of interest from the standpoint of the breeding range of this species. On April 21, 1956, Earl Gibbs, Biologist for the California Fish