

GENERAL NOTES

Winter Returns of the Indigo Bunting in Guatemala.—While studying the birds of Uaxactun, Guatemala, for the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology in 1931, I was interested to find the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) wintering in large flocks in the open grassy clearing. Flocks of scores were constantly to be seen feeding on grass seed. They came especially to the mule corral to pick up waste grain, and there I installed a simple automatic drop-trap baited with rice and immediately began catching them in numbers. Beginning March 31st, I operated the trap until the birds left for the North a month later, banding 99 birds and recording 120 repeats. The birds were quite tame, some repeating three or even four times a day. Banding operations soon showed that they were extremely sedentary, and toward the end of the month an ever increasing percentage of captures were repeats; this in spite of the fact that the species was common all over the clearing of hundreds of acres. On the morning of April 27th the species, which before had been always present at the corral, had disappeared. A circuit of the clearing revealed no Indigo Buntings. I thought they had left for the North, but on the 28th I saw again small flocks and noted bands on the legs of some birds. However, they were very restive, wandering about and not coming to the trap. On April 30th one was retaken in the trap and other banded birds were seen. The main flock probably left for the North that night, for we saw none thereafter, though two unbanded females were taken later (May 4th and 13th) in nets in the forest.

I was unable to return to Uaxactun in 1932, but my friend A. Ledyard Smith of the Carnegie Institution of Washington was there and with the aid of his loyal helper, Dixon, operated the trap again in the same spot. In spite of interference from livestock and other difficulties, they made the following interesting recaptures:—

A70403 ♂ banded April 1, 1931. Repeated April 7, 8 (twice), 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 1931. Returned April 6 and 7, 1932.

F30345 ♂ banded April 13, 1931. Returned April 7, 1932.

F30346 ♂ banded April 13, 1931. Returned April 7, 1932.

F30284 ♀ banded April 4, 1931. Returned April 7, 1932.

F30358 ♂ banded April 15, 1931. Repeated April 16, 19, 20, 23, 1931. Returned April 8, 1932.

F30332 ♀ banded April 10, 1931. Returned April 9, 1932.

My observations and those of Mr. Smith would seem to indicate a flock of about a hundred Indigo Buntings wintering in a particular section of the Uaxactun clearing, probably migrating as a unit, and returning to winter the following year in the identical spot.—JOSSELYN VAN TYNE.

The Fifth Return of Mallard No. 555414.—The interest that Mallard No. 555414 has aroused throughout the banding fraternity, makes it desirable to place on record her latest return.¹ Mr. F. J. Keller, on whose barn this bird has now nested for six consecutive years, has advised the Biological Survey that she returned to his station with a mate, on February 21, 1932. A heavy snowstorm on March second caused them to leave, but they were back again on March 16th. The duck made regular visits every morning to her nest box on the barn and started to lay on April 3d. By April 18th she had completed the unusually large set of fourteen eggs and had begun to incubate.

¹For previous accounts of the history of this bird see *Bull. Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*, vol. V, No. 3, pp. 92-94, July, 1929, and *Bird-Banding*, vol. III, No. 1, p. 32, Jan., 1932.