

GENERAL NOTES

Results of Pinon Jay Banding in South Dakota.—The Pinon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephala* Wied — AOU #492) is a species of the southwestern United States. According to the fifth edition of the A. O. U. Checklist, it ranges north to Grand View, Oregon; Billings, Montana; and western South Dakota; and south to northern Baja California, central Arizona, central New Mexico, and western Oklahoma. In most of its range, it is a characteristic species of the pigmy conifer forest of pinon pines and junipers that is just above the brush desert in elevation. In the Navaho country of northern Arizona and southern Utah, the Pinon Jay is one of the most conspicuous species.

In the Black Hills of southwestern South Dakota, this species is a permanent resident of open ponderosa pine forests at elevations between 3,000 and 4,500 feet. Like many other Corvids, Pinon Jays flock in winter, and at Rapid City, on the east edge of the Black Hills, two flocks frequent feeding stations throughout the winter. One flock, containing 20 or 30 individuals, frequents the cottonwoods and elms of downtown Rapid City, and another flock, with 40 or 50 members, roams up and down the low ridge of Minnekahta limestone just west of town. This latter flock frequently visits my home, located at the east base of the limestone ridge, and here, since I began banding in 1953, I have banded 95 Pinon Jays through 1962. Most of these have been in late fall, winter, and early spring.

Because their habitat is not subject to heavy human settlement, Pinon Jays are seldom banded. Through the courtesy of Dr. Allan J. Duvall, head of the Banding Laboratory at the Patuient Wildlife Research Center, I learned that a total of 157 Pinon Jays had been banded through 1957. I have banded 57 additional individuals since 1957.

In contrast to many species, Pinon Jays are very docile when trapped. They rarely struggle at all in the hand, but they are quick to take advantage of any chance to escape.

I have further information on 17 individuals, including eight recoveries (found dead and reported through the Banding Office), two repeats (retrapped at the original trapping station within three months after banding), and seven returns (retrapped at the banding station more than three months after banding). Of the eight recoveries, the interval between banding and death were as follows: 17 days, 3½ months, 5 months, 8½ months, 22 months, 3½ years, 5 years, and 5½ years. Of the seven returns, two were retrapped almost exactly two years after banding. For the others, the intervals were 9 months, 17 months, 18 months, 3 years, and 6 years. Since all these birds were banded as adults, Pinon Jays obviously have a life expectancy of six or seven years under natural conditions, and possibly much longer. Of the 28 Pinon Jays I banded in the spring of 1956, only one has been reported dead so far, although many others have probably died also.

All of the recoveries have been along the same limestone ridge on the east slope of the Black Hills where I have my banding station, except for one that was shot in the Bear's Paw Mountains of Montana, about 50 miles south of Chinook and about 400 miles northwest of the point of banding. I am interested in determining whether this was merely a chance wandering, or whether Pinon Jays often travel across the prairies to other mountain ranges.

In summary, I have banded 95 Pinon Jays over a period of eight years at Rapid City, South Dakota. Fourteen of these have been reported more than three months after date of banding, amounting to 16 percent of the individuals banded prior to the summer of 1962. Seven of the eight recoveries were either north or south of the banding station, along the same limestone ridge, but the other was from 400 miles northwest. All birds banded have been adults, and future plans call for the banding of nestlings in order to determine longevity more exactly and to determine plumage sequences.—N. R. Whitney, M. D., 633 South Berry Pines Road, Rapid City, S. D.

Some Repeats and Returns of North American Migrants in Panama.

—As part of a general study on arthropod-borne viruses (e.g., encephalitis), the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory of Panama has undertaken a long-range study of migratory thrushes and catbirds. Under the direction of Dr. Pedro Galindo, this study involves the manning of up to 100 mist nets on a dawn to dusk basis throughout the year near Almirante, Bocas del Toro Province, a coastal lowland area close to the Costa Rican border on the Caribbean slope. The results of the first year's