

GENERAL NOTES

Eight-Year-Old Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) are relatively easy to study in their nesting colonies in sand and gravel pits. As a result, several long term studies have involved this species. Notable was the work of Dayton Stoner and his wife who gathered much of the early data from investigations in Iowa and New York. Through banding, he was able to obtain information on the longevity of these birds. A six year old bird was recaptured in 1937 that had been banded as a juvenile in 1931 (Stoner and Stoner, *Bird-Banding*, 8: 175-176, 1937). Later Stoner and Stoner (*Science*, 96: 273-274, 1942) reported an individual bird originally banded as an adult that was at least seven years old when recaptured the final time.

Walter Nickell (*Personal Correspondence*, 1969), banding Bank Swallows in Michigan, has had no returns that would indicate an age greater than seven years from nearly 1300 returns in the last 12 years.

From the 148 returns obtained from Bank Swallows banded in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, and Jefferson Counties of Wisconsin during ten years of banding by Edward Peartree, David Stoner (no relation to Dayton Stoner) and myself, only one six year old individual and no seven year olds have been recaptured. However, on June 15, 1968, David Stoner, banding at the Bodus Brothers Sand and Gravel Pit in the town of New Berlin, Waukesha County (T6N, R20E, Sec 4), recaptured a swallow (63-03843) I had banded as an adult female at the James Brothers Sand and Gravel Pit in the town of Pewaukee, Waukesha County (T7N, R19E, Sec 25) on June 13, 1961. This bird was at least eight years old at the time of recapture and had moved to a new nesting site 3.9 miles southeast, the James Brothers Pit having deteriorated since 1961.

This appears to be the oldest Bank Swallow to be reported. Earl Baysinger, Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory (pers. comm.) commented that his information on old Bank Swallows was limited by the uncertain accuracy of some of the older return records in the Laboratory files, and the fact that "return" data haven't been entered into the computer files for nearly the past decade. However, he has definite information on only one bird approaching this one in known age: band number 49-33605, banded as a nestling on July 7, 1950, and caught by hand on June 21, 1958. He believes that there are undoubtedly older records in existence.

These comments deal with the species only in North America, as I have not attempted to trace records elsewhere in its range. To take an example at random, during 1965 no less than 66,459 "Sand Martins" were ringed in Great Britain (more than any other species that year), with no less than 2,119 recoveries, as the result of the special inquiry by the British Trust for Ornithology. (*Br. Birds*, 59: 144, November, 1966). These massive ringings, with a very high recapture rate, will no doubt show a few birds older than eight years, if in fact they have not already done so—Wallace N. MacBriar, Jr., Assistant Director, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233.

Gray Jays Accept Transfer to a Different Nest in a New Location.

As part of a continuing study of the Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, two nestlings, 15 days old, were removed from the nest and color-banded on 18 April 1969. One was marked with a red band on the right leg, the other with a blue band on the right leg, and they will be referred to as RR and BR. An hour after they had been returned to the nest both had climbed out and fallen to the ground 20 feet below. One, resting on a patch of snow, was alert and lively; the other, on a bed of moss, was lethargic and cold. Both were placed in the author's shirt front and carried to a heated building 200 yards away, and by that time both were alert and begging for food. Equipment used to reach the nest had been removed by truck to a distant point and it was not possible to climb the tree without it. The birds were placed on an old Gray Jay nest in a cardboard carton 6 inches deep, 9 inches wide, and 11 inches long, and this was secured five feet above the ground between two small trees 42 inches from the nest tree. To facilitate observation and provide easy access for the adults, one side of the carton was cut down to 3 inches.

The adults had reacted to the removal of the young with loud, chattering alarm calls and by flying in close to the bander, but they showed no concern over the change of location and surroundings except by picking up all the bits of nest

material that had been dropped on the ground during the operation and storing these in crevices in nearby trees. After that they resumed their normal schedule of feeding the young and looking after nest sanitation.

The nestlings showed no inclination to leave the carton but by 22 April they were moving about actively within it and occasionally hopping up on the edge and even to nearby branches. At this age they do a lot of preening and vigorous wing-flapping. On 24 April they were not in the carton, but as I was examining it they flew from where they had been perched three or four feet above it. They flew out across an adjacent beaver meadow, one veering left and the other right. The one on the left lost elevation rapidly but managed to reach the base of a spruce at the edge of the meadow, where it landed and at once began to climb upward among the branches. The other described an arc of about 75 yards, bringing it back to the border of spruces from which it had taken off and there it disappeared.

The adults were seen frequently in the meantime but the young were not seen again until 14 May, when they were together and about 100 yards from the nest. On 27 May they were seen with the adults but seemed to be largely feeding themselves. On 5 June the four birds were again seen together, but on 8 June RR had disappeared. BR remained with the adults through the summer and was still with them in October. Since early August its plumage has been indistinguishable from that of an adult.—Russell J. Rutter, Huntsville, Ontario, Canada.

Slate-colored Junco wintering dates at Baltimore.—From 1941 through 1968 I banded 1,004 Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) in northwestern suburbs of Baltimore. Here my extreme dates for sighting the species have been 24 September and 13 May, with the period of common occurrence about 21 October to about 24 April. My banding has shown, however, that the individuals which spend the winter arrive chiefly from about 10 November on and leave chiefly by 14 April.

My earliest banding of a junco that apparently wintered was 27 October; the bird was seen to 1 January. (I once trapped on 26 October one I had banded the previous winter, but then never caught it again and so can not be sure that it wintered again.) My next-earliest banding dates for winterers are 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17 November. Three winterers that returned and wintered again were first seen in their second seasons on 3, 11 and 27 November. The latest spring date on which I recorded a marked winterer was 19 April; the next-latest were 14, 12, 11, 10 (three times) and 9 April.

Middleton (*Bird-Banding*, 15: 15, 1944) has reported very similarly that at Norristown, Pa., about 90 miles northeast of Baltimore, "the general winter group" of juncos is present between mid-November and 1 April, and that he trapped his earliest return birds in November but the largest number in December.

Of my 1,004 birds, 15 (1.49 percent) showed stays of more than 100 days. The longest stay I recorded was 151 days, the next-longest were 129 and two of 128. These figures, too, are very similar to Middleton's (*loc. cit.*). Of 1,560 juncos he banded at Norristown, 19 (1.22 percent) showed stays of more than 100 days; the longest were two of 148 days.—Hervey Brackbill, 2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, 21207.

Hybrid Warbler collected in South Florida. I netted a hybrid warbler on October 8, 1960, at my banding station in Homestead, Florida. The bird was an immature female showing characteristics of the Golden-wing, Blue-wing and Brewster's. It was photographed and examined alive by Dr. Wm. B. Robertson, Jr., and John C. Ogden as well as by myself, before dying in the hand. The skin was prepared by Ogden, and sent to Dr. Lester L. Short of The American Museum of Natural History for further examination. Since 1950 records of hybrid warblers in South Florida have included only one sight reporting, at W. Palm Beach.

The accuracy of sight records can be judged by the following remarks about this hybrid by Dr. Short:

"It is unique in its characters . . . probably a back-cross product of a hybrid and a Golden-wing. It could almost equally be an "introgressant" Golden-wing, that is, a bird produced by Golden-wing parents which both had some Blue-wing genes as a result of past hybridization in the area where the bird was produced. The specimen clearly shows too much yellow below and too much yellow-green above to be considered a variant Golden-wing. Also, the wing bars, while yellow,