

Dr. Thomas R. Howell kindly made comments on this manuscript. My shearwater work is being supported in part by a Frank M. Chapman grant from the American Museum of Natural History. This is Oceanic Institute Contribution No. 75.—Robert Shallenberger, c/o Oceanic Institute, Waimanalo, Oahu, Hawaii 96795.

Ectoparasites from the Genus *Aegolius*.—During the past three years I have used banding as a method for the study of Saw-Whet and Boreal Owls (*Aegolius acadicus* and *Aegolius funereus* respectively). When time permitted, *ca.* five minutes was spent searching the plumages for ectoparasites. Two species (*Strigiphilus* ?*pallidus* and *Orchopeas leucopus*) were found on the Boreal Owl, one of which (*O. leucopus*) was probably accidental. Also, for the Saw-Whet Owl two species of ectoparasites were recorded (*Strigiphilus* sp. and *Lynchia americana fusca*), one of which is not yet described (*Strigiphilus* sp.). This information is given in greater detail in the following paragraphs. All of the ectoparasites reported here were collected in southern Ontario, and are preserved in the Dept. of Entomology at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Ontario.

Aegolius funereus

Chewing Lice: Order Mallophaga: — *Strigiphilus* sp. *cursitans* group. Probably referable to *S. pallidus* (because *A. funereus* is the type host of this species, and members of *Strigiphilus* are usually host specific). Of some five owls examined carefully, only two carried this ectoparasite, which was found in the plumage of the facial disc and crown. Collections were made in Peel and York counties during the months of February and March 1969. Specimens were determined by Dr. R. C. Dalglish of the Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, New York.

Fleas: Order Siphonaptera: — *Orchopeas leucopus* male. A common flea of Deermice (*Peromyscus* spp.), and probably indicating that the owl had been feeding on a Deermouse (A. H. Benton, personal communication). Collected on 16 Feb. 1969 in Peel county, the specimen was identified by Dr. A. H. Benton of New York State College for Teachers, Albany, New York.

Aegolius acadicus

Chewing Lice: Order Mallophaga: — *Strigiphilus* sp. *cursitans* group. Similar to those from *A. funereus*, but probably represents a new species which cannot be described until the entire genus is revised (R. C. Dalglish, personal communication). These parasites were found on approximately 50% of the owls searched (*ca.* 100), usually in the plumage of the crown and nape; less often on facial disc and wings. Often, if this parasite was carried by the owl, at least five could be found easily. Collections were made from October to April inclusive. Specimens were determined by Dr. R. C. Dalglish of the Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, New York.

Louse Flies: Family Hippoboscidae: — *Lynchia americana fusca*. A female came out on the tail of a Saw-Whet banded on Long Point, Norfolk county, 19 April 1969. A male was found on the wing of another Saw-Whet Owl banded in east Toronto, York county, 15 April 1969. These specimens were determined by Dr. K. W. MacArthur, curator of Entomology, Milwaukee Public Museum. Another specimen referable to this species was determined by J. C. E. Riotte of the Royal Ontario Museum using the keys provided by MacArthur (The Louse Flies of Wisconsin, *Bull. Milwaukee Public Museum*, 8 (4): 367-440). It carries the following data: From Saw-Whet Owl banded 26 March 1968 in east Toronto. It is interesting to note that, although more owls were banded in winter and in autumn, this parasite was noticed only in March and April.—Paul M. Catling, 104 Victoria Park Ave., Toronto 13, Ontario, Canada.

Misleading glaucous-winged gull recovery from Iowa.—In North America the Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) breeds along the Pacific Coast from western Alaska to Washington and winters to the south along the coast to southern California (A. O. U., 1957). Banding returns from British Columbia colonies indicate that some non-breeding birds remain in California in summer. Rarely, however, is the gull found more than 100 miles inland from the

coast. Merilees (1961) gives a record of a Glaucous-winged Gull banded near Vancouver, B. C. in July, 1959 and recovered near St. Paul, Alberta in April, 1960, a distance of about 600 miles from its normal range. Gabrielson and Jewett (1970) mention Glaucous-winged Gulls have been observed in central Morrow County, Oregon, about 200 miles from the coast. Surprising, then, was a banding return I recently received for this species from Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1,500 miles from normal range. The gull was banded (No. 587-03311) as a nestling on Mittenatch Island, which is situated at the northern end of the Strait of Georgia, B. C., on July 21, 1967. The date of recovery was July 18, 1969, the bird being just over two years old.

Although rather exciting, the locality of recovery seemed unlikely. How could a species, restricted to a marine habitat, survive an inland wandering? I wrote a letter to Dale R. Dawson in Council Bluffs for more information on the banded gull he had found. In his reply, Mr. Dawson, an employee of Pacific Fruit Express Company wrote "In July of 1969 this bird was found on top of a box car badly decomposed. Not knowing what kind of bird it was I picked it up and found it was banded. The band was in good shape and very legible. Within a very few days after the band was found I sent the band number to the Department of Interior. Received a reply from them wanting more detailed information. I sent the information back to them in late July and then I received a Certificate of Appreciation."

The Pacific Fruit Express Company is served by the Union Pacific Railroad. I wrote to Mr. Dawson again asking for information on railroad routes from Council Bluffs across the western United States. In a reply he wrote "the bird that I found more than likely came from the West Coast. Trains carrying perishable foods maintain a five day schedule coast to coast. The weather here at that time of year was very hot. This would explain the condition of the bird."

Along with this information Mr. Dawson sent a map of Union Pacific Railroad routes. There are several West Coast ports the railroad serves. From north to south the larger ports include Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The route from San Francisco is the most direct and one over which through trains are operated. It seems very likely then that the immature gull died or was placed on top of the box car dead, in San Francisco, and was transported by rail to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

This incident points out a problem with the acceptance of band returns, and inland records of birds whose normal range is restricted to a marine habitat. I am aware of two instances where gulls were transported from the coast of British Columbia inland to Alberta.

While employed as a park naturalist during the summer months at Wickaninish Provincial Park (Long Beach) on the central west coast of Vancouver Island, B. C. campers often brought me injured seabirds for care. Most birds were immatures, mainly Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), Glaucous-winged Gulls, California Gulls (*Larus californicus*), Common Murres (*Uria aalge*), Marbled Murrelets (*Brachyramphus marmoratum*), and Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleutica*). For many birds the 'injuries' were not apparent. Consequently, campers who picked up the birds felt that with some care and attention the birds could be rehabilitated and later released.

In August, 1967 a family from Calgary, Alberta brought me a two year old Glaucous-winged Gull which could not fly well. The family decided to care for the bird while at Long Beach, feeding it sardines and hamburger. It wasn't until the following summer, when the prairie family returned to Long Beach for their annual vacation, that I found out they had taken the gull back to Calgary with them. For several weeks the gull was kept as a pet and then the novelty began to wear off. With the extra work involved in keeping a clean cage the bird was released "in healthy condition" in Calgary.

There was another incident of an Albertan family who returned home from Long Beach with an immature California Gull. Apparently this bird was also looked after for a short time and then released near Brooks, Alberta. Should the California Gull be found and reported it would be of little interest as they breed in Alberta. A Glaucous-winged Gull recovery, however, would certainly cause some excitement as the bird is accidental in Alberta (Godfrey, 1966). Perhaps some existing interior records have resulted from birds being transported inland by campers and tourists.

There are other cases of seabirds, especially alcid, being transported from Long Beach but unfortunately I cannot recall the circumstances of these incidents.

I think, then, that banders and ornithologists should treat inland records of seabirds with extreme caution, especially returns and records from the summer and early fall. This, of course, is the period when birds are most likely to be picked up by vacationers.

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R. Wayne Campbell, Vertebrate Museum, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, B. C., Canada.

A Colored Leg Tag for Nestling and Adult Birds.—Current studies of sturnids in the lower mainland of British Columbia require identification of individual wild nestling, juvenile and adult birds. Hatchling starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and crested mynas (*Sturnus cristatellus*) are too small to successfully wear the recommended size (2) U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands, and these bands alone are not sufficient aids for identifying juvenile and adult birds at a distance in the field.

Prior to the papers by Craighead and Stockstad (1956) and Blank and Ash (1956) which reported use of plasticized polyvinyl chloride materials, Trippensee (1941), Taber (1949), Nelson (1955) and Helm (1955) described use of plastic materials as marking devices. Subsequently, other workers have reported use of plastic materials for marking birds (Downing and Marshall 1955; Campbell 1960; Hester 1963; Thomas and Margurger 1964). Fankhauser (1964) and Gullion (1965) used colored Scotch brand adhesive tape to mark birds. More recently, Guarino (1968) described a procedure employing nylon-empregnated, non-adhesive polyvinyl chloride strips held in place by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this study, Scotch brand pressure sensitive tapes are used to mark nestling starlings and crested mynas. Tags are attached by placing the tarsus into a fold in the tape and pressing the two adhesive surfaces together up to the tarsus. This results in a leg tag upon which identification is placed. If firmly applied, ink impregnates the tape and gives a long lasting impression. The adhesive surfaces of the tape disengage as tarsal growth occurs, thereby not affecting leg growth. After tarsal growth has completed, larger permanent adhesive strips can be attached in the same manner described above (See Fig. 1). To increase retention, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands can be applied around the tarsal tags and abutted firmly against the tape.

TAG RETENTION

Three hundred smaller tags have been applied to nestling starlings and crested mynas. Nine juvenile birds removed nestling tags shortly before leaving the nest. This necessitated application of the larger permanent adhesive tape tags reinforced with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg bands. One hundred eighty permanent color tags have been applied to starlings and mynas since 6 June 1968, resulting in 81 observations of tagged birds. Starlings recaptured at a communal roost in March, 1969, still had their tags held in place by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands. The ink impressions applied with ball point pen had faded but were clearly readable.