

## GENERAL NOTES

**Some banding returns in El Salvador.**—During two seasons of banding migratory species in El Salvador, we have obtained 14 returns of 13 birds. All birds were taken with mist nets and given bands provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Three birds were banded and retaken at the Hacienda Los Pinos (13° 20' N 88° 40' W, 59 m elev.) in the Department of Usulután, a reproductive season intervening: 1) Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), banded 21 February 1971, retaken 25 January 1972, age and sex not determined when banded, adult female plumage when retaken; 2) Painted Bunting, banded 21 February 1971, retaken 26 January 1972, intermediate male plumage when banded, full adult male plumage when retaken; 3) Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), banded 22 February 1971, retaken 26 January 1972, sex not determined, immature plumage when banded, adult plumage when retaken.

Ten birds were banded and retaken at Cerro Verde (13° 20' N 88° 40' W, 2000 m elev.) in the Department of Santa Ana. Five of these were retaken after an intervening reproductive season: 4) Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), banded 21 April 1971, retaken 17 October 1971, age and sex not determined; 5) MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*), banded 20 April 1971, retaken 2 March 1972, female, age not determined; 6) MacGillivray's Warbler, banded 19 April 1971, retaken 4 March 1972, age and sex not determined when banded, adult male plumage when retaken; 7) Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*), banded 22 April 1971, retaken 3 March 1972, female, age not determined; 8) Wilson's Warbler, banded 8 January 1971, retaken 24 November 1971 and retaken again 1, 2, 3, 7 March 1972, male, age not determined.

Five birds were banded and retaken during the same non-reproductive season, either having spent that season at Cerro Verde or having been taken in passage, probably the former: 9) Wilson's Warbler, banded 17 October 1971, retaken 2 March 1972, female, age not determined; 10) Wilson's Warbler, banded 16 October 1971, retaken 8 March 1972, sex and age not determined; 11) Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*), banded 24 November 1971, retaken 7 March 1972, age and sex not certain; 12) Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*), banded 24 November 1971, retaken 1 March 1972, male "winter" plumage when banded, male breeding plumage when retaken; 13) Townsend's Warbler, banded 17 October 1971, retaken 6 March 1972, male breeding plumage when banded and retaken.

We have additional data on weights, measurements, and plumages which we will supply to anyone interested. Walter A. Thurber, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, and Amanda Villeda C., Cabañas, Guatemala, C. A. Received 17 January 1972, accepted 1 August 1972.

**Red-winged Blackbird impaled by plant stem.**—Birds occasionally become tangled in the vegetation they inhabit. Entrapment and subsequent death has been previously reported (see Brown, *Wilson Bull.*, **82**: 464-465, 1970, for a review). The circumstances of such entanglements are frequently peculiar and of significant interest. We report here one such occurrence.

On 11 May 1972, while banding blackbirds in a large decoy trap on South Bass Island, Ottawa County, Ohio, we recaptured an AHY female Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), previously banded here on 29 April 1972 and recaptured unharmed on 5 May. The bird was now impaled on a dry stalk of *Dactylis glomerata* L., 133 mm long and 4 mm in diameter (Fig. 1). The stalk had entered the body cavity on the left side and emerged at a point about 1 cm distant, remaining firmly attached near the middle by dried body fluids. Internal organs were visible, the liver most prominently, but none appeared to be injured. We carefully cut the skin to remove the stalk and released the bird. It flew away with no apparent difficulty.



FIGURE 1. Female Red-winged Blackbird impaled on stalk of *Dactylis glomerata*.

One wonders what effect such an impediment would have on the bird's activities. A bird so impaled undoubtedly would be considerably hampered, yet this bird was able to fly into the trap, feed, and enter the holding cage. Possibly the stem was originally longer and was broken to its present length. Since the stem was brittle, perhaps in time the bird could have broken it or even removed it altogether.

The interesting question is how this bird became initially impaled. This grass is representative of the habitat in which red-wings forage, roost, and nest. Thus numerous possibilities exist for such an accident. One assumption would be that this bird was flying fast since the stem penetrated so deeply. Perhaps it was flushed while roosting at night and flew low through the grasses, impaling itself.

We wish to thank Marvin L. Roberts for identification of the plant stalk.

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**One-day or one-night mileage of migrant birds.**—Published data on the distance covered by banded migratory birds in one day or in one night are meager. In forty years of banding, I have two records.

On 12 February 1972, I banded a Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) which was netted 13 February 1972 by M. L. Bierly and Roger Harshaw at the home of the latter about 10 miles east of my banding station.

On 22 September 1938, F. E. Frei banded a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) at 05:30 in Glasgow, Kentucky. That evening it was retaken in its southern migration in Nashville, Tennessee at 18:30 when the roosting chimney was covered. The two chimneys were about 85 miles apart (*Migrant*, 9: 78, 1938).

Karl E. Bartel recorded one night's flight of a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). On 6 October 1937 at 07:30 he trapped No. 38-119166 at his home in Blue Island, Illinois, a bird which had been banded the previous evening by W. I. Lyon at Waukegan, Illinois, about 55 miles north of Blue Island. (*Inland Bird Banding News*, 24: 15, 1952).—Amelia R. Laskey, 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville, Tenn. 37215. Received 22 March 1972, accepted 8 August 1972.

**Longevity records of Indigo Buntings wintering in Jamaica.**—I started banding Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) in my garden in Montego Bay, Jamaica in the spring of 1964. During that spring 172 birds were banded with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands. All returns caught the following spring as well as all birds banded in subsequent years were also color-banded for individual recognition. Of the birds caught in 1964, two males first banded 24 February and 9 March have returned each year (one "missed" 1968) until 1971. Usually these birds arrived at my feeder in mid-February and remained until mid-April. They were last seen on 18 April 1971 when I left home, and they were not there on my return on the 28th.

The house was unoccupied between 4 March and May in 1972 and, although food was provided, the caretaker advised that no Indigo Buntings had visited the feeder this year.

When last seen, therefore, these two birds were each at least eight years old and had made at least eight round-trip flights from North America to my feeding station in Montego Bay.—Audrey C. Downer, 1 Oakridge, Kingston, Jamaica. Received 19 August 1972, accepted 28 August 1972.