

**Further Records, Including the First Double-journey Recovery, of European-banded Ruddy Turnstones on Ellesmere Island, N.W.T.**—Recoveries and measurements of Knots (*Calidris canutus*) and Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) banded in Europe and recovered in the Canadian high arctic were recently summarized by Morrison (*Bird-Banding*, **46**, 290-301, 1975). Two further records of European-banded turnstones were obtained on Ellesmere Island in 1975, and one of these birds has subsequently been recaptured on the wintering grounds in Britain. Details are as follows:

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Banded 28 August 1972, Terrington Marsh, King's Lynn, Norfolk, England; 52°48'N, 00°18'E; adult.

Controlled (captured and released alive): 3 June 1975; Alert, Ellesmere Island, N.W.T., Canada 82°30'N, 62°20'W; USF & WS 1013-60656 added.

Controlled (captured and released alive): 4 January 1976, Snettisham, Norfolk, England; 52°51'N, 00°27'E.

*Reykjavik* 723389

Banded: 10 May 1972; Gardskagi, Midneshr., Gull., Iceland; 64°05'N, 22°42'W; adult.

Shot: 17 June 1975; Lake Hazen, Ellesmere Island, N.W.T., Canada 81°49'N, 71°18'W.

Seven records of movements of banded turnstones between Europe and the Canadian high arctic are now known. The present results include the first "double-journey" recovery of the species between the Canadian high arctic breeding area and European wintering grounds, as well as the first record of a movement between Iceland and Canada. The British bird was captured initially on the Wash in August 1972, again soon after arrival on the breeding grounds in June 1975 during mist-netting operations on the garbage dump at Alert, and a third time back on its wintering grounds on the Wash in January 1976. The Icelandic bird was first observed and identified as a male defending its territory on the shore of Lake Hazen on 15 June and was collected on 17 June 1975. It had well-developed incubation patches and subsequent dissection confirmed the sex. The bird had been banded by the author during spring migration in southwest Iceland in May 1972.

These banding records provide further documentation of the European wintering area used by turnstones breeding on Ellesmere Island. Consideration of weights of turnstones in Britain, Iceland, and Ellesmere Island was shown to imply that Iceland is an essential stopover point for birds on migration from European wintering grounds to breeding grounds in the Canadian arctic (Morrison, loc cit.), and the recovery of the bird banded in Iceland on spring migration lends support to this hypothesis.

I thank R. Pittaway for assistance with field work on Ellesmere Island.—R. I. G. MORRISON, *Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada KIA 0H3*. Received 31 January 1976, accepted 5 April 1976.

**Movements of Cavity-hunting Starlings and Eastern Bluebirds.**—In an earlier paper (Stewart, *Wilson Bull.*, **85**: 291-294, 1973) I reported removing 56 Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) from one nest box at one site during the 1972 nesting season. This continuing replacement of Starlings after removal suggested that a substantial number of Starlings do not nest but continue moving about seeking suitable nesting cavities. In an effort to collect some information on the nature and extent of this movement, I operated a line of nest-box traps during the 1974 nesting season, banding and releasing the birds captured. The nest-box traps were placed on fence posts and thus served also to capture Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*). Accordingly, information was gathered on the movements of both cavity-hunting Starlings and Eastern Bluebirds.

All 13 nest-box traps were of the type described earlier (Stewart, *Bird-Banding*, **42**: 121-122, 1971; **43**: 214, 1972). One nest-box trap was operated in the backyard of my home in Oxford; others were placed at farmsteads along North Carolina Highway 96, starting at Oxford and extending 11 miles northward. Spacing of the nest-box traps varied from 0.1 to 2.1 miles, with an average

of 0.8 mile between traps. The nest-box traps were placed at sites not earlier occupied by nest boxes. Except for the period 22-26 April, the traps were operated continuously from 20 February until 11 June, and they were checked twice daily.

A total of 43 Starlings (37♂, 6♀) were banded. The largest number of Starlings captured in one trap was eight, with an average of 4.3 birds per trap in the 10 traps capturing at least one of these birds. Except for two females captured in one trap, the females were all captured in different traps. Of the 37 males, six were captured in each of three traps, four in two, three in two, two in two, and one was captured in one trap. Only 11 recaptures were made; nine of these, six females and three males, were of birds recaptured where they had been captured first. One male was recaptured 0.9 mile from where first captured, and another was recaptured 2.1 miles from where first captured. These data suggest that male Starlings may move about searching for nesting cavities more than females. Also, in the earlier study (Stewart, *Wilson Bull.*, 85: 291-294, 1973) 39 of the 56 Starlings captured and removed were males and 17 were females, also indicating more movement of males than females. However, with 56 Starlings captured at one site when the birds were removed after capture and an average of 4.3 captured at each site when the birds were banded and released, there was much less exploration of nest boxes when the birds were banded and released than when they were removed. Thus, it was indicated that new birds move in to explore potential nest cavities chiefly when other birds are not already present, instead of contesting cavities. Also, only four Starlings, three males and one female, were captured in 1974 at the site where 56 were captured and removed in 1972.

Fifteen male and nine female Eastern Bluebirds were banded. The largest number of bluebirds captured in one trap was seven, with an average of three per trap at the traps that captured at least one of these birds. Of the 24 bluebirds captured, seven were captured in one trap, five in one, three in two, two in two, and one in two traps. With 1.7 male bluebirds captured per female compared with 6.2 male Starlings per female, bluebirds showed more of a tendency than Starlings to seek nest cavities in pairs. Both members of four bluebird pairs were captured in successive visits, also showing that these birds sought cavities in pairs. Only six bluebird recaptures were made, with five of these being the same pair captured in the same nest box or at two boxes 0.1 mile apart. These two bluebirds captured in the same or a nearby box were captured at various times between 7 March and 5 June, and they appeared not to have nested during the 1974 nesting season, instead continuing to remain in the same area unsuccessfully attempting to use the boxes equipped with automatic traps. The longest recorded movement of a cavity-hunting bluebird was 0.8 mile, made between 30 April and 31 May.

The Starlings were trapped from 24 February to 1 June, with 9 April the median date; the bluebirds were trapped from 24 February to 10 June, with 18 March the median date. My data thus indicate that Starlings searched for nest cavities most intensively slightly later in the year than bluebirds, but the bluebirds continued their searching after Starlings had stopped theirs.

In addition to the Starlings and Eastern Bluebirds three Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*), four Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), and six House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were trapped. Repeated captures of the Carolina Chickadees and Carolina Wrens were not made; thus, the presence of these birds probably had little influence on exploration of the nest boxes by Starlings and bluebirds. However, the six House Sparrows were all taken in the same nest box, and no Starlings or bluebirds were taken there, suggesting that this one box may have been held by House Sparrows against use by Starlings and bluebirds.—PAUL A. STEWART, 203 Mooreland Drive, Oxford, North Carolina 27565. Received 6 February 1976, accepted 20 April 1976.

**A Brown-headed Cowbird in Postjuvenile Molt at Age of about 38 Days.**—On 5 August 1975 I found a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) nest about 80 yards north of my home. When I reached toward it, a single young bird, not clearly seen, fluttered to the ground and was lost in weeds. For some time one or more Song Sparrows had been coming from the north to feed in my pull-string trap, and after this, continued to do so. On 18 August one fed a young Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) beside the trap, then flew north. The