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A Mortality Table for Wood Ducks.—I obtained records of recoveries of banded Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) from the Bird Banding Laboratory, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland, enabling me to prepare what I consider to be a reasonably representative table of the mortality rate of these birds. In an effort to represent the full life spans of the birds, I selected data that pertained only to birds banded as locals. The data were further selected to include only birds shot by hunters and only birds with full information at the time of recovery. In order to assure that no further recoveries will be made of the banded sample used, only birds banded before 1967 were used, and the data obtained included birds recovered through 10 March 1976. The records used included birds banded in various states scattered throughout the Wood Duck's range.

TABLE 1.
Mortality table for Wood Ducks banded as locals

Age in years	Alive at start of year	Died during year	Percent mortality
0-1	543	356	65.6
1-2	187	92	49.2
2-3	95	45	47.4
3-4	50	25	50.0
4-5	25	14	56.0
5-6	11	6	54.5
6-7	5	1	20.0
7-8	4	2	50.0
8-9	2	2	100.0
Total and average		543	54.7

The annual mortality rate for 543 Wood Ducks is presented in Table 1. Nearly two thirds of the birds were killed in their first year of life, and the average annual mortality rate was 54.7 percent. The oldest bird lived into its eighth year. Of the 543 birds, the sex was indicated for 431. The average annual mortality rate was 51.4 percent for the males and 59.6 percent for the females. Thus, the mortality rate was slightly higher for the females, and there was no evidence that hunters selected the more beautiful and conspicuous males, as might have been expected.—PAUL A. STEWART, *203 Mooreland Drive, Oxford, North Carolina 27565*. Received 30 January 1977, accepted 11 March 1977.

Ectoparasites Found in the Nest Cavities of Pileated Woodpeckers in Oregon.—Ectoparasites of the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) have been little studied. A few species collected from the birds have been reported but apparently no one has examined nests for ectoparasites or inquilines. The nest fauna of the European representative of the genus (*D. martius*) has received more attention, and there are several papers listing insect species found in nests (Hicks, 1959, 1962). The most extensive of these lists 28 species of insects, two of which are considered ectoparasites (Nordberg, 1936).

We examined the contents of 18 nest cavities collected in 1975 (8) and 1976 (10) on the Starkey Experimental Forest, 35-40 km southwest of La Grande, Union Co., Oregon. Twelve nest cavities, sampled in June and July, contained nestlings (one within a week) at the time collections were made. Six nest cavities were examined in September, approximately eight weeks after nestlings had

fledged. Three of these contained secondary nests of squirrels as indicated by ectoparasites recovered. The pileated nest material, in order of abundance, consisted of fine brown dirt and sand, wood chips, insect parts, bird droppings, and feathers. The three squirrel nests were composed of grass, a lichen, and/or hair.

Nest material was placed in a plastic bag and frozen. Later each collection was placed in a white tray and sorted. All arthropods were dead when the nests were examined, decreasing the chances of finding some species, especially mites which resembled particles of soil.

Eight species of ectoparasites were found in six nest cavities. Four fleas and one mite were primarily ectoparasites of squirrels. Another mite could have been either a bird or squirrel ectoparasite, and the remaining mite and fly were considered to be true bird ectoparasites.

LIST OF SPECIES

Dermanyssus gallinoides Moss—Five females were collected from four nests on 5 September 1975, 23 June 1976, and 2 July 1976. Two were in a squirrel nest, the others in pileated nests. *D. gallinoides* was known previously on the basis of four records from four species of woodpeckers or their nests from British Columbia, Colorado, and Oregon (Moss, 1966; Moss et al., 1970). The type series from British Columbia consisted of 89 mites, other records limited to one or two specimens. The present specimens are the first to be associated with the pileated.

Androlaelaps casalis (Berlese)—One female was collected 5 September 1975 from a squirrel nest. This is a cosmopolitan mite reported from a variety of birds, mammals, their nests, and other organic material. It is a frequent inhabitant of bird nests and is often collected from tree squirrels (*Sciurus*, *Tamiasciurus*, and *Glaucomys*) or their nests. The present record is the first certain one from Oregon although Hansen (1964) listed three probable specimens from cricetid rodents.

Haemogamasus reidi Ewing—Four females were collected 5 September 1975 from two squirrel nests. It has been collected from a variety of rodents, predominately tree squirrels.

Carnus hemapterus Nitzsch—One dealated female was collected 2 July 1976 from pileated nest material. This dipteran shows a preference for nestling birds in holes or under protective canopies. It is known from a variety of birds in Europe, with knowledge of its distribution and host relationships in North America more limited. There are records from nine host species, including three woodpeckers, in eight states, two Canadian Provinces, and Mexico (Capelle and Whitworth, 1973). Additional specimens have been collected from pileated nestlings by Bull. The present record is the first from Oregon and the pileated.

Megarhroglossus divisus divisus (Baker), *Monopsyllus vison* (Baker), *Orchopeas caedens caedens* (Jordan), and *Opisodasys vespertalis* (Jordan)—Eight males, 13 females; 1 male; 1 female; and 4 males, 9 females, respectively, were collected 5 September 1975 from the three squirrel nests. These fleas primarily parasitize tree squirrels, and their presence in pileated nest cavities is due to secondary use of these cavities by either red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) or northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*). The first three species are reported from both hosts, but far more frequently from red squirrels. The great majority of host records for the last species are from northern flying squirrels; it has not been recorded from red squirrels.

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- NIXON WILSON, *Department of Biology, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613*, and EVELYN L. BULL, *Research Wildlife Biologist, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Route 2, Box 2315, La Grande, Oregon 97850*. Received 6 February 1977, accepted 21 March 1977.

OBITUARY

ELIZABETH S. AUSTIN

Elizabeth S. Austin, well-known authoress of bird books for young people, frequent contributor to the Recent Literature section of *Bird-Banding*, and wife of Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., died in her sleep on 23 May 1977, after a long illness. Elizabeth, or "Sliver," as she was affectionately known to her husband and many friends, was born in New York City, 23 January 1907. Her early life was spent largely in the New York City area, where she attended Saint Elizabeth Academy, Convent Station, New Jersey. Her early interest in and talent for writing was at first directed toward verse and romantic tales. Following the Academy, while traveling abroad she continued to write; but interests in and devotion to natural history were not kindled until her marriage to Oliver, whereupon she "found birds a more interesting subject than anything I had ever imagined in my wildest dreams."

Raising her children, Anthony and Timothy, occupied much of her attention until the late 1950's, when the Austins moved to Gainesville, where Oliver assumed the curatorship in ornithology with the Florida State Museum. In this stimulating atmosphere of a world of nature and scholarly endeavor and while her husband labored on his magnum opus "Birds of the World," Elizabeth's authorship blossomed in a variety of ways. For a time she wrote a weekly column, "Wild Adventure," for the Florida Times-Union Sunday Magazine. Surely her most important scholarly publication was the book "Frank M. Chapman in Florida: His Journals and Letters" (1967). But just as surely she was most widely acclaimed for two excellent books for young people: *Penguins*, the "Birds with Flippers" (1968) and "Birds that Stopped Flying" (1969). She co-authored with Oliver: "The Random House Book of Birds" and was a contributor to the "Golden Book Encyclopedia of Natural Science." Readers of *Bird-Banding* and *Auk* will perhaps best remember her careful literature reviews and as a specialist on