

approximately 10 ft and parted some of the overhanging sedges for photography. At my next visit, on the morning of 8 July, the nest was empty; there was no evidence of predation and I assumed that the chicks had hatched successfully. While dismantling the blind, however, I flushed the male dowitcher from a newly completed nest 22 in from the original nest and about three in lower on the same hummock. It contained one wet chick and one well-pipped egg; the male's behavior indicated that the other chicks had already hatched and were secluded nearby. The female was not present and did not respond to the male's persistent alarm calls. Evidently the close proximity of the blind was intolerable to the male, which responded by rolling the eggs to a somewhat safer sight.

I know of no other reports of nest-shifting in shorebirds, whose typical reaction to extreme disturbance is to desert the clutch. In this case, the advanced condition of the embryos probably stimulated the male to remain in attendance and to shift the eggs instead. There are persistent rumors of woodcock (*Scolopax* and *Philohela*) and other shorebirds carrying their chicks to safer locations (see Sheldon, "The Book of the American Woodcock," U. Mass. Press, 1967; Lowe, *Ibis*, **114**: 106–107, 1972), although verification is unsatisfactory and other interpretations (op. cit.) seem more likely.—JOSEPH R. JEHL, JR., *Hubbs/Sea World Research Institute, 1700 South Shores Road, San Diego, CA 92109*. Received 15 April 1979, accepted 31 May 1979.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Stuck in Cavity Entrance Resin.—Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) are unique in that they excavate nest and roost cavities only in living pine trees. The birds excavate resin wells completely around cavity trees, above and below the cavity. The resin flow apparently serves as a defense mechanism (Ligon, *Auk*, **85**: 203–215, 1970; Jackson, *Bird-Banding*, **49**: 187–188, 1978). The present report represents the first discovery of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker becoming stuck in cavity entrance resin.

Fresh resin is potentially hazardous to birds. A dead Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) and an unidentified warbler (Parulidae) have been found stuck in the resin flow of a Red-cockaded cavity tree (Dennis, p. 79 in *The Ecology and Management of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker* (R. L. Thompson, ed.), Bur. Sport Fish. Wildl. and Tall Timbers Res. Sta., Tallahassee, 1971). Similarly, Kilham (*Auk*, **89**: 451–452, 1972) reported finding a Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) stuck to pitch in the entrance to its nest cavity.

On 23 May 1978, in the Angelina National Forest, 65 km SE of Lufkin, Texas, we discovered a dead Red-cockaded Woodpecker in the only cavity in a longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), approximately 4 m above ground. Only the head of the bird protruded from the cavity. Some dry white resin was on the tree but no recent flow. On 25 May 1978, we photographed and removed the bird, an adult female (identifying characteristics in Jackson, *Bird-Banding*, **50**: 23–29, 1979) from the cavity entrance. The bird's synsacral region was stuck to the cavity entrance tube, with the right flank having the greatest contact. Resin had completely penetrated the feathers and come into contact with the skin on the right flank. The left wing was folded up against the body, and the right wing and tail extended inside the cavity as if the bird had struggled after becoming stuck. An X-ray of the intact carcass revealed no structural deformities, no broken bones, and no lead shot.

Measurements of the cavity entrance tube did not appear to differ from previously reported measurements (Jackson, p. 103–112 in *Endangered Birds, Management Techniques for Preserving Threatened Species* (S. A. Temple, ed.), U. of Wisconsin Press, 1978). The floor of the cavity entrance tube was beveled, producing an upward slope for the initial 5 cm of its 11-cm total length. The remainder of the entrance sloped slightly downward to the cavity. The woodpecker was stuck at the narrowest portion of the entrance tube, where the tube began its downward slope. Cavity entrance tubes of this shape are characteristic for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, at least in East Texas.

A natural trough-like depression enabled enough resin to flow into the cavity entrance tube to form a pool. This trough-like depression is absent in most Red-cockaded cavity trees, or if present, the depression is shallower so that resin flows onto the outer, beveled portion of the entrance and down the outside of the tree.

Although possibly the bird was weakened or died of disease or old age, we suggest

that the bird got stuck in an existing pool of resin while it perched in the entrance tube. Commonly Red-cockaded Woodpeckers perch in a roost or cavity entrance in inclement weather, late in the day, or in response to a disturbance (Jackson, *Living Bird*, **15**: 205–221, 1976; Dan Lay, pers. comm.).

Our observation presents possible evidence of mortality to a Red-cockaded Woodpecker attempting to use a less than optimal cavity or cavity tree.

The specimen is deposited in the Ornithological Collection, Department of Biological Sciences, Mississippi State University. We thank M. R. Lennartz, J. A. Jackson, and L. L. Short for excellent comments on the manuscript.—BRIAN A. LOCKE, *School of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962*; RICHARD N. CONNER, *Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Lab, Southern Forest Exp. Sta., USDA, Forest Service, Nacogdoches, TX 75962*; and JAMES C. KROLL, *School of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962*. Received 24 May 1979, accepted 28 August 1979.

Use of Velcro for Handling Birds.—Banders often need to restrain small birds so that both hands are free to record data, collect blood, and weigh birds. Most restraining devices described in the literature have been designed for waterfowl (Fredrickson, *Bird-Banding*, **41**: 242–243, 1970; Evans and Kear, *J. Wildl. Manage.*, **36**: 1265–1267, 1972; Bolen, Loven, and Cain, *J. Wildl. Manage.*, **41**: 789–790, 1977) or other medium-sized birds (Shallenberger, *Bird-Banding*, **42**: 125–127, 1971; Seel, *Bird-Banding*, **46**: 74–75, 1975).

Banders using mist nets often encounter a variety of birds during a single check of the nets. Most restraining devices have little or no versatility to accommodate different-sized birds. Fuller (*J. Wildl. Manage.*, **39**: 824–825, 1976) used Vetrap® Brand Bandaging Tape (Animal Care Products, 3M Co., St. Paul, MN 55101) to restrain hawks and owls. Although this adhesive is apparently useful in rehabilitation of birds recovering from accidental wounds or surgery, I have found Vetrap® awkward to use in restraining small birds such as Ground Doves (*Columbina passerina*). The material requires two or more wraps around the bird to achieve adequate restraint, and because of the limpness of Vetrap®, it is difficult for a single bander to wrap the bird properly for wing-tagging.

A more satisfactory restraint is a single strip of Velcro with a short overlap. Velcro is a fastening material readily available in most fabric stores. Three widths of Velcro facilitate its use on birds ranging in size from Painted Buntings (*Passerina ciris*, ¾-in Velcro) to Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*, 1½-in Velcro) to American Coots (*Fulica americana*, 2-in Velcro). Because of its adhesive strength, a 150-mm strip of Velcro can be used on a variety of bird species without adjustment. Velcro is available in different colors, although white is easiest to see if accidentally dropped into dense vegetation. Velcro is especially useful to banders using Pesola-type scales because the scales may be attached directly to a loose end of the Velcro. Velcro should be wrapped firmly around the bird for proper restraint, but not so tight as to produce circulatory or respiratory problems.

The advantages of using Velcro are many: it is inexpensive and readily obtainable; no construction is required; a single strip will allow handling birds of several sizes.

The use of Velcro for restraining birds was suggested to me by R. L. Jarvis. I thank D. Chronister for reviewing an earlier draft of the manuscript. This is Welder Wildlife Contribution No. 241.—MICHAEL F. PASSMORE, *Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, P.O. Drawer 1400, Sinton, TX 78387*. Received 20 May 1979, accepted 27 August 1979.