
A Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) in southeastern Arizona

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There are innumerable published reports of small passerines, particularly warblers, straying from their normal migration routes. However, most of these accounts involve only a single observation or encounter, and it has not been possible to document the subsequent history of the vagrant. We report here our observations of such a vagrant recaptured four times over a period of nearly two months following initial encounter.

Although there are scattered records of Hooded Warblers from southeastern Arizona (Davis and Russell, 1979; Phillips et al, 1964), it was still a surprise when we captured an individual on 26 July 1979. The bird, recorded as HY and sex unknown, was mist-netted at Tanque Verde Ranch, a banding station maintained near Tucson for 10 years. The habitat of the ranch, which includes a small pond, mesquite thickets, and a large grove of cottonwoods, is attractive to a variety of migrants, including many typical western warblers.

On 26 July the Hooded Warbler showed only a suggestion of a gray ring around the throat and was undergoing moderate molt of the dorsal body contour feathers; remigial molt had progressed through the fourth primary; and rectrix molt had not started. By 2 August 1979, when this bird was first recaptured, body molt was again evident, including light molt of ventral feathers, and the molt of the rectrices was nearly complete with only the sixth rectrix remaining unmolted. The remigial molt had progressed through the sixth primary. By the time of the fourth encounter, on 6 September, both ventral and dorsal body molt continued to be evident, and the remigial molt had progressed through the eighth primary and the fourth secondary. At the fifth and final encounter on 20 September, the post juvenal molt was complete and the typical black collar of a male was fully developed.

At the time of the last encounter, the days were still warm (27°C at 0900) and the last of the usual migrating warblers were passing through. Although the Hooded Warbler never showed more than a trace of fat on any of the five encounters, it

may have continued its migration, possibly joining a party of migrating warblers. It may not, however, have moved very far as there is a January record of another Hooded Warbler presumably overwintering in the neighboring state of Sonora, Mexico (Russell and Lamm, 1978). ☺

Literature cited

- Davis, W.A. and Russell, S.M. 1979. Birds in Southeastern Arizona. Tucson Audubon Society.
Phillips, Allan, Marshall, J. and Monson, G. 1964. The Birds of Arizona. The University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
Russell, S.M. and Lamm, D.W. 1978. Notes on the Distribution of Birds in Sonora, Mexico. *Wilson Bull.* 90:123-131.

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