
Significant Encounters with Marked Birds

Edited by: John B. Dunning, Jr.
Department of Zoology
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

In the last issue we invited IBBA and EBBA members to join WBBA members in contributing significant encounters to this column. If you are interested in submitting your records, you may be wondering what makes a recovery or recapture "significant." To a large degree, any encounter with a banded bird is important, whether the record is a migrant recovered in some other country, or the daily trapping of your resident chickadee. But because of space constraints, we can include in this column only some of the reports we receive. In general, I consider an encounter with a marked bird "significant" if it meets one of the following criteria: 1). the bird was 5+ years old; 2). the recovery was made 50+ miles from the original banding site; 3). the species is rarely banded or recaptured; 4). the bird was banded or recaptured under unusual circumstances. These criteria are not ironclad, mainly because of the different frequencies with which different species meet the criteria. For example, 5-year-old Northern Cardinals are pretty commonplace; whereas a 5-year-old Elf Owl is a new longevity record (see below). If I get swamped with Cardinal records, I may have to amend the criteria somewhat, but for now, this is the way I select records for the column. JBD.

I. Non-passerines

American White Pelican 619-16131 Banded as L-U by R.A. Ryder at Masters CO on 11 July 1986. Recovered at Sulphur OK on 27 Oct 1986; 575 mi SE of banding site.

Tundra Swans. The following birds were banded with neck collars as ASY adults by M. Spindler and T. Doyle at Selawik NWR, northwest AK:

- 619-12516 F banded on 10 Aug 1984, resighted near Chico CA on 9 Jan 1988, 2400 mi SE of banding site;
- 619-16910 F banded on 5 Aug 1987, resighted at Koots AB on 12 Oct 1987;
- 619-16905 M banded on 4 Aug 1987, resighted at Fallon NV, 2500 mi SE;
- 619-12500 F banded on 1 Aug 1987, resighted at Woodbridge CA on 14 Nov 1987, 2500 mi SE;
- 619-12496 F banded on 3 July 1987, resighted at Woodbridge CA on 27 Nov 1987;
- 619-16904 M banded on 4 Aug 1987, resighted at Woodbridge CA on 27 Nov 1987;
- 619-12499 F banded on 1 Aug 1987, resighted at Woodbridge CA on 11 Dec 1987;

- 619-16913 & 61916914 F and M banded on 6 Aug 1987, resighted near Chico CA on 9 Jan 1988, 2400 mi SE;
- 619-16916 F banded on 6 Aug 1987, shot by hunter in Corinne UT on 25 Oct 1987, 2500 mi SE;
- 619-12495 banded as SY-M on 31 July 1987; resighted in Sacramento County CA on 26 Dec 1987, 2500 mi SE of banding site.

Wood Duck 796-56908 Banded as AHY-F by Jon Anderson at Ankeny NWR, Jefferson OR on 8 May 1986. Shot at Butte Lodge Club CA on 26 Oct 1986. [Originally captured, together with an AHY male, in a live trap set for Nutria.]

Mallards. The following birds were banded by Robert McLandress at Grizzly Island WA:

- 1467-07352 HY-M banded on 13 July 1986, shot at Tule Lake CA on 10 Oct 1987;
- 1467-07970 SY-F banded on nest on 29 May 1987, shot at Upper Klamath Lake CA on 20 Oct 1987;
- 897-59187 L-M banded on 27 July 1985, live-trapped at Malheur NWR, OR on 27 July 1987;
- 897-59162 U-M banded on 26 July 1985, live-trapped at Malheur NWR, OR on 27 July 1987;
- 897-58209 HY-M banded on 13 July 1985, live-trapped at Malheur NWR on 3 Aug 1987;
- 1467-08095 SY-F banded on 22 June 1987, live-trapped at Malheur NWR on 12 Aug 1987.

... 1467-07900 Banded as SY-F by Robert McLandress at Suisan Marsh WA on 4 July 1987. Shot at Upper Klamath Lake CA on 17 Oct 1987; 200 mi N of banding site.

... 1467-11243 & 1467-10586 Banded by Robert McLandress at Gray Lodge WA on 24 July 1986 and 11 July 1986, respectively. Live-trapped at Malheur NWR OR on 7 Aug 1987 and 25 Aug 1987, respectively.

... 1467-11448 Banded as HY-F by Robert McLandress at Delevan NWR CA on 29 July 1986. Shot at Lower Klamath Lake CA on 10 Oct 1987; 200 mi N of banding site.

Northern Pintail 936-30266 Banded as HY-U by R.A. Ryder near Wellington CO on 12 Sept 1986. Shot at Pittsburg CA on 22 Oct 1986; 900 mi W of banding site, travelled in 40 days.

Significant Encounters (cont.)

Blue-winged Teal 755-88546 Banded as AHY-F by R.A. Ryder near Wellington CO on 2 Sept 1986. Shot at Catahoula LA on 20 Sept 1986; 1300 mi SE of banding site, travelled in 18 days.

... 755-88541 Banded as AHY-M by R.A. Ryder near Wellington CO on 2 Sept 1986. Shot at Columbus MS on 13 Sept 1986; 1100 mi SE of banding site, travelled in 11 days.

Golden Eagle 629-00568 Banded as 4-year-old (unknown sex) by J. Anderson at Madras OR on 22 May 1982. Recovered on the lower Owyhee River OR on 11 Nov 1986; 250 mi SE of banding site. 8 years old.

... 629-00557 Banded as 4-year-old (unknown sex) by J. Anderson at Bend OR on 27 May 1977. Found dead on highway (location not given) on 17 Jun 1985. 12 years old.

Peregrine Falcons. The following birds were banded by staff of Alberta Fish and Game Wildlife Dept. near Wood Buffalo National Park AB:

686-04763 Banded as L-F in 1980. Retrapped in June 1987, breeding 16 km from natal eyrie. 7 years old.

686-04904 Banded as L-M in 1980. Retrapped in June 1987, breeding 32 km from natal eyrie. 7 years old.

987-28760 Banded as L-F in 1980. Retrapped in June 1987, breeding 25 km from natal eyrie. 7 years old.

987-28758 Banded as L-F in 1980. Retrapped in June 1987, breeding 95 km from natal eyrie. 7 years old.

987-29698 Banded as L-F in 1985. Killed by vehicle in May 1987, hit 90 km from natal eyrie.

987-23654 Banded as L-F in 1985. Retrapped in June 1987, breeding 92 km from natal eyrie.

... 727-03334 Banded as L-F by staff of Alberta Fish and Game Wildlife Dept. near Edmonton AB in 1980. Resighted in June 1987, breeding 10 km from hack site. 7 years old. [Has bred on the same building from 1981-87.]

... 816-16851 Banded as L-M by staff of Alberta Fish and Game Wildlife Dept. east of Calgary AB in 1982. Resighted near Edmonton AB in June 1987, breeding 240 km from hack site. 5 years old. [Has bred on the same building from 1984-87.]

... 987-29656 Banded as L-F by staff of Alberta Fish and Game Wildlife Dept. near Stettler AB in 1981.

Resighted near Calgary AB in June 1987, breeding 150 km from hack site. 6 years old. [Has bred on same building from 1983-87.]

... 816-16751 Banded as L-F by staff of Alberta Fish and Game Wildlife Dept. near Calgary AB in 1985. Resighted in June 1987 as a non-breeding summer resident in Edmonton AB; 150 km from hack site.

Black-legged Kittiwake 584-09622 Banded as L-U by George Hunt at St. Paul Island AK on 20 Oct 1976. Noosed on its nest there on 29 July 1987. 11 years old.

... 704-96212 Banded as L-U by George Hunt at St. Paul Island AK on 26 Aug 1978. Noosed on its nest there on 31 July 1987. 9 years old.

Thick-billed Murre 836-53150 Banded as AHY-U by George Hunt at St. Paul Island AK on 6 Aug 1979. Noosed on its nest there on 3 Aug 1987. At least 9 years old.

White-winged Dove 734-29874 Banded as HY-U by Phil Walters at Tucson AZ on 31 July 1986. Shot at La Palma, Guerrero, Mexico, on 28 Feb 1987; @1740 mi S of banding site.

... 734-29821 Banded as HY-U by Phil Walters at Tucson AZ on 29 June 1986. Shot at Tecoman, Michoacan, Mexico, in Apr 1987; @1000 mi S of banding site.

Elf Owl 872-42528 Banded as AHY-U by Phil Walters at Tucson AZ on 7 July 1983. Mistnetted there on 7 May 1987. 5 years old. [New longevity record? Species not included in Clapp et al. longevity summary (1983. J. Field Ornithol. 54:123-1370).]

Violet-crowned Hummingbird x-44827 Banded as AHY-U by David and Linda Ferry at Ramsey Canyon AZ on 21 July 1986. Photographed there in May 1987.

Berylline Hummingbird x-44902 Banded as AHY-F by David and Linda Ferry at Ramsey Canyon AZ on 22 July 1987. Photographed at Madera Canyon AZ on 31 July 1987, re-netted there on 7 Sept 1987. [Startling appearance of very rare Mexican vagrant at 2 major hummer spots in SE Arizona. See Amer. Birds 41:1472].

II. Passerines

Brown-crested Flycatcher 901-86037 Banded as AHY-U by Phil Walters at Tucson AZ on 16 July 1981. Mistnetted there on 4 June 1987. 7 years old.

Violet-green Swallow 2000-44186 Banded as L-U by Chester Kebbe at Portland OR on 1 July 1984. Recaptured on nest there as AHY-M on 28 June 1987. [Breeding in nestbox where it hatched, no prior returns.]

Tree Swallow 910-88501 Banded as AHY-F by Cliff Collins at Long Lake, near Chitna AK on 20 June 1984. Recaptured there in nest box on 21 June 1987. At least 4 years old. [Nesting in box 50 ft from nest box where she was originally banded.]

Scrub Jay 963-71176 Banded as U-F by staff of Point Reyes Bird Observatory at Palomarin CA on 31 July 1979. Mistnetted there on 22 Sept 1987. 8 years old.

Mountain Bluebird 921-12821 Banded as HY-U by Roger and Lois Johnson at Cadogan AB on 28 Jun 1983. Recaptured there as AHY-F on 10 May 1987. 4 years old. [Oldest of 9 banded bluebirds that returned in 1987.]

Swainson's Thrush 1341-24516 Banded as AHY-M by Breck Tyler at Santa Cruz CA on 8 June 1983. Mistnetted there on 24 July 1987. At least 5 years old.

Wrentit 78-31156 Banded as U-F by staff of Point Reyes Bird Observatory at Palomarin CA on 9 Nov 1975. Mistnetted there on 14 Oct 1987. 12 years, 4 months. [3 months shy of longevity record.]

... 78-33087 Banded and colorbanded as AHY-M by staff of Point Reyes Bird Observatory at Palomarin CA on 31 July 1979. Seen there on 26 July 1987. 9 years old.

Common Yellowthroat 1460-47552 Banded as AHY-M by Breck Tyler at Santa Cruz CA on 4 May 1981. Mistnetted there on 24 July 1987. At least 7 years old.

Summer Tanager 941-00177 Banded as ASY-F by Phil Walters at Tucson AZ on 28 Apr 1983. Mistnetted there on 9 July 1987. At least 6 years, 1 month. [New longevity record by 1 month.]

Northern Cardinal 55-133499 Banded as AHY-F by Chuck Corchran at Tucson AZ on 29 Jan 1976. Mistnetted there on 12 Feb 1987. 11 years, 8 months old. [Oldest recapture currently being caught at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch, the largest banding operation in the Tucson area.]

... 881-72613 Banded as U-M by Chuck Corchran at Tucson AZ on 31 Dec 1981. Mistnetted there on 16 July 1987. 6 years old.

Lazuli Buntings. The following birds were banded and recaptured by Merlin Killpack at Ogden UT:

1590-00180 SY-M banded on 17 May 1981, renneted on 17 June 1987, 7 years old;

1630-84504 SY-M banded on 19 May 1982, renneted on 18 July 1987, 6 years old;

1690-94663 ASY-M banded on 1 May 1984, renneted on 9 July 1987, at least 5 years old;

700-90101 ASY-M banded on 19 June 1984. renneted on 26 Apr 1987, at least 5 years old.

Green-tailed Towhee 851-30545 Banded as HY-U by Chuck Corchran at Tucson AZ on 11 Nov 1982. Mistnetted there on 19 Sept 1987. 5 years old.

Savannah Sparrow 820-28840 Banded as AHY-M by members of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton AB, at Tofield AB on 22 Aug 1982. Mistnetted there on 20 July 1987. At least 6 years old.

Song Sparrow 1311-22533 Banded as AHY-M by Breck Tyler at Santa Cruz CA on 9 June 1981. Mistnetted there on 7 Mar 1987. At least 7 years old.

Fox Sparrow 861-93531 Banded as HY-U by Breck Tyler at Santa Cruz CA on 5 Dec 1981. Mistnetted there on 7 Mar 1987. 6 years old.

White-throated (Gambel's) Sparrows. The following sparrows were banded by Chuck Corchran at Tucson AZ:

1201-23377 HY-U banded on 11 Nov 1976, renneted on 29 Nov 1987, 11 years, 7 months old;

1191-42609 SY-U banded on 24 Jan 1980, renneted on 19 Nov 1987, 8 years old;

1241-20469 HY-U banded on 13 Dec 1979, renneted on 19 Nov 1987, 8 years old;

1271-06388 AHY-U banded on 25 Nov 1980, renneted on 2 Apr 1987, 8 years old;

1271-06466 AHY-U banded on 11 Dec 1980, renneted on 5 Feb 1987, at least 8 years old.

Significant Encounters (cont.)

... 1341-15480 Banded as HY-U by Dick Mewaldt at San Jose CA on 24 Nov 1984. Retrapped by George Brady at Pateros WA on 30 Apr 1986; 800 mi NE of banding site.

... 1231-92833 Banded as HY-U by Breck Tyler at Santa Cruz CA on 25 Oct 1981. Mistnetted there on 28 Feb 1987. 6 years old.

Dark-eyed Junco 2010-60405 Banded as AHY-U by Merlin Killpack at Ogden UT on 15 Apr 1985. Mistnetted there as AHY-M on 19 Apr 1987. [Hybrid Pink-sided X Gray-headed.]

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 1630-84730 Banded as HY-U by Merlin Killpack at Ogden UT on 8 Dec 1982. Mistnetted there on 26 Oct 1987. 5 years old, 7 previous returns.

... 1570-60313 Banded as AHY-F by John Hubbard at Sante Fe NM on 6 Mar 1983. Renetted there on 18 Oct 1987. At least 5 years old.

... 1370-71366 Banded as U-M by John Hubbard at Sante Fe NM on 11 Nov 1979. Mistnetted there on 31 Oct 1987. At least 8 years old.

Brewer's Blackbird 912-47611 Banded as U-M by Daniel DeJong at Island Lake, Marion MT on 20 May 1984. Retrapped there on 12 May 1987. [Identical capture and recapture dates as Brown-headed Cowbird listed below, despite 3 years between captures.]

Brown-headed Cowbird 961-85114 Banded as U-M by Daniel DeJong at Island Lake, Marion MT on 20 May 1984. Retrapped there on 12 May 1987. [See Brewer's Blackbird record above.]

... 1231-601217 Banded as HY-U by Stephen Rothstein at Mammoth Lakes CA on 27 July 1978. Retrapped there as AHY-F on 30 May 1987. 9 years old.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Doug Collister, 3426 Lane Crescent S.W., Calgary Alberta T3E 5X2 observed an adult Bald Eagle with red patagial tags on April 3, 1988. He would appreciate receiving information from the person who marked the bird. (See commentary by C. Collins, NABB 13:13-14).

... 831-38728 Banded as HY-U by Stephen Rothstein at Silver Lake CA on 27 July 1987. Retrapped along the Tijuana River at Imperial Beach CA on 3 Nov 1987; at least 360 mi S of banding site.

... 951-80557 Banded as ASY-M by Stephen Rothstein at Mammoth Lakes CA on 23 June 1983. Sighted at bird feeder at Lake Havasu City AZ on 20 Dec 1986; 320 mi SE of banding site. At least 5.5 years old. [Present until at least early January 1987.]

Northern (Bullock's) Oriole 901-20797 Banded as AHY-F by Joseph Jeppson at Pocatello ID on 2 June 1982. Mistnetted there on 15 May 1987. At least 6 years old. [Developed the black chin of a juvenile male, see NABB 12:175.]

House Finches. The following finches were banded and recaptured by Merlin Killpack at Ogden UT:

940-85100 AHY-F banded on 28 Feb 1981, renetted on 30 Oct 1987, at least 7 years old;

950-86079 AHY-F banded on 19 Jan 1983, mistnetted on 8 July 1987, at least 5 years old;

950-86083 AHY-M banded on 25 Jan 1983, renetted on 16 July 1987, at least 5 years old;

950-86094 AHY-M banded on 4 Mar 1983, renetted on 27 Feb 1987, at least 5 years old, 5 previous returns.

... 900-22143 Banded as U-M (prob HY) by Elliott McClure at Camarillo CA on 15 Sept 1977. Retrapped on 2 Apr 1987. At least 10 years old, 7 previous returns.

Evening Grosbeak 412-45720 Banded as SY-M by E.G. Jones at Swan Lake MT on 13 Feb 1984. Captured alive after it hit a window, then released, there on 31 Jan 1987. 4 years old.

