

areas which are normally salmon-colored, (sides of breast, wing and tail patches), these areas were white. I saw very clearly that the tail area of whiteness was a very little blurred here and there with black. In other words, the white tail-patch was not a pure white area, but had a little black mixed into the white in the border regions where the white and black joined.

"I had a wonderful observation of this bird and could have caught him in a butterfly net had I carried one."

Verbal inquiries among local observers showed no similar experiences, so a desire to investigate spring plumages of other American Redstarts caused Elliott to visit the several hundred male skins in the trays of the American Museum of Natural History.

Examination revealed that black areas and salmon patches were very regular in size and location, but the white underparts varied considerably; whereas some were almost clear white, others were blotched and streaked to some degree with black, and two specimens were particularly melanistic below. In these, wide-spread black areas enclosed the side salmon patches, peculiarly resembling the large black enclosures of the spring male Myrtle Warbler's yellow side-of-the-breast areas. Peculiar also, the areas normally salmon in these two melanistic individuals were pale and bordering on yellow or buffy, although they were normal Redstarts in all other details. So it happened that of all the birds in the trays, one of these two dark ones, a bird collected at Bayridge, L. I., May 20, 1880 (American Museum of Natural History specimen 440,589) came the nearest to the white and black of Mudge's Redstart.

In this Bayridge bird the inner vanes of the tail feathers were almost white, the outer vanes pale buffy; the wing patches ranged from whitish to pale burnt orange, as did the sides of the breast, both being a shade buffier than the tail patches. The restricted white on the underparts was relegated to the undertail coverts and forward to enclose both legs, ending in a peak one-half inch forward.

Therefore, the nearest the Museum trays had to offer was an almost all black Redstart with whitish-buff tail patches and slightly buffier side and wing patches. So we close with an appeal to readers of *The Kingbird*: has any one among you seen a black and white Redstart? — Eugene T. Mudge, R. F. D. 1, Northport, L. I.; John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, L. I.

Winter record of the Kentucky Warbler in Ulster County — On December 5, 1956 I discovered a Kentucky Warbler on the property of S & E Farms Inc. (a professional laboratory animal concern) at Stone Ridge. As I stepped from the Office-Lab on this day I heard a sharp chip and out of the corner of my eye caught a glimpse of the bird as it dived to the ground among some Yew bushes. The dense evergreen shrubbery and Honeysuckle vines that landscapes the area must have been a strong attraction for this vagrant warbler, resembling in part its natural habitat of dense cover. The bird was not extremely wild but was constantly on the alert, apparently instinctively sensing the strangeness of at least part of the scene. It was seen several different days between the discovery date and Dec. 27 when it disappeared. It would come out of hiding on sunny mornings and search for food about the sunny exposed foundations of two of the buildings. Here the ground was always bare and with a warm sun there was a good chance of finding sluggish flies or spiders that crawled out to sun themselves. Although the bird habitually stayed close to the ground near shrubbery, it was seen on several occasions flying high up the side of the house to catch a fly. Scarcity of food must have prompted this action. So far as I could see it did not respond to the offer of commercial bird seeds. It generally ignored the other birds frequenting the area around the buildings. It was never heard to utter even the chip following the day it was found. Apparently the bird's chief concern in coming out into the open was to secure flies, a mainstay for this time of year since most of the natural food was gone. With the several buildings and driveways, a main highway, dogs, a dangerous cat, lots of human activity — all that must have been strange — it is a wonder this Kentucky Warbler stayed even for a day. Henry and Ilse Dunbar, who saw the bird, agreed that it was a male, judging from the bright, distinctive plumage.

Where did he come from? Perhaps he wandered off course from the Central New York colony in Cortland County or maybe Kentuckys have extended their breeding range up the Hudson Valley and he and his mate nested right here in Ulster County. Of course, we will never know this but at any rate we now have

the first winter record of a Kentucky Warbler in New York State. — Fred N. Hough, Accord 1.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) collected in Dutchess County, New York. — On March 16, 1953 a Solitaire was collected in the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York. The specimen is preserved as a study skin in the Vassar College collection at Poughkeepsie. The bird was a female with an ovary which measured 5.5 by 3.0 millimeters. It was first observed on March 4, 1953 by Mr. George Decker of Dover Plains, N. Y. Mr. Decker watched the bird on several different days between March 4 and March 16. In every case the bird was seen in the late afternoon in one restricted area, usually sitting quietly in the top of a dead oak at the edge of an abandoned field. There were occasions, however, when the bird could not be found.

The only other record for the State of New York is a bird collected on November 25, 1905 by J. A. Weber in King's Park, L. I. (Dwight, 1906, Auk, 23:105-106). King's Park is approximately 75 miles south of Dutchess County.

Mr. Chandler Robbins was kind enough to check the files of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and reports that three other specimens have been taken in Eastern United States: one at Waukegan, Illinois on December 16, 1875 (Nelson, 1876, Bul. Nutt. Orn. Club, 1:40); another by Herbert L. Stoddard at Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, about February 20, 1910 (Ward, 1912, Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc., 10:47); and a third by Alan Rusch in Dodge Co., Wisconsin on December 6, 1952 (Strelitzer, 1953, Passenger Pigeon, 15(2):65).

In addition there are three sight records for eastern United States: one seen several times in Ohio between December 26, 1938 and January 14, 1939 (Campbell, 1940, Bull. Toledo Mus. Sci., 1:127-128); another seen at Hudson, Wisconsin in December, 1942 (Robbins, 1943, Passenger Pigeon, 5(1):3-4); and a third seen by many observers at Blue Island, Illinois from December 27, 1953 to January 17, 1954 (Barter, 1954, [Ill.] Audubon Bull., No. 89:6).

A study of these records indicates that most are for the winter months of December, January, or February in the states of Wisconsin (3 records), Illinois (2 records) or Ohio (1 record). The New York records are for November and March. This period, from late November to mid-March, also agrees with the three records listed in Roberts' Birds of Minnesota. — John L. George, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie.

Some interesting band returns — It is generally supposed by many people that as fall approaches a strictly southerly movement of birds takes place. Among banders cooperating with the Federal Wildlife Service, this idea is being discarded. For some time it has been surmised that as fledglings take wing and a waning food supply makes competition keen, many birds move north in search of food. Whether this is so, and if so why, has not been determined to the satisfaction of ornithologists, who are now and will be for some time to come, engaged in the study of what seems to be a contrary movement.

The bulk of my personal banding operations have been conducted on the islands of Lake Champlain near Keeseville where an average of 750 to 800 Herring and Ring-billed Gulls are banded as downy young. Because of their size, these birds provide a better incidence of band recovery than the small land birds. This has meant that I have accumulated a fair number of returns, enough to show that many birds are moving north. Two other banders are active in this area: Mrs. R. E. Mason of Essex and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McGregor of Ellenburg Depot, the former giving good coverage to the south of my operations, the latter to the north. Both of these teams are engaged, however, in banding smaller species.

In interpreting the information in the following recovery records, it should be recalled that the area to the north of Keeseville is sparsely settled with the exception of the Montreal area. In the following list which is designed to compare north and south movements, all banding was done on Four Brothers Island in Lake Champlain.

HERRING GULL. Banded July 29, 1954, recovery Nov 30, 1955, Savannah, Georgia. 14 birds banded June 11, 1955: recoveries: Arundel, Quebec, Oct 1, 1956; Cte. Saguenay, Quebec, Sept 2, 1955; Sorel, Quebec, Sept 15, 1955; St. Jean, Quebec, Sept 23, 1955; Granby, Quebec, Sept 24, 1955; Cap-de-la-Madeline, Quebec, Sept 17, 1955; Cote Ste. Catherine, Quebec, Aug 17, 1955; Willsboro, New York, July 3, 1955; Orlando, Florida, Dec 28, 1955; Althol, Massachusetts, Aug 4, 1955;