

appear much worn by March or April, much less mid-May. I am inclined to suspect that if this bird's physiological cycle were upset enough so that it had *failed* to molt by May 18, it probably would have been too sick to migrate normally. I think it is more likely that it molted early, but that the timing of the presumably hormonal control of feather pigmentation was a bit off, so that it assumed an alternate plumage of an aspect essentially like that of the basic plumage. I would expect that this would be most likely to happen in a bird that had molted quite early, and in this case apparently before the pigment-controlling apparatus was 'ready' to produce a normal aspect."

Literature cited.

- 1) Bent, A. C. . *Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers*, Dover Pub., New York, 1963, Part 2, p. 372.
- 2) Forbush, E. H. . *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Norwood Press, Norwood, Mass., 1929, Part III, p. 248.
- 3) Goodpasture, K. A. : "Age, Sex and Wing Length of Tower Casualties: Fall Migration, 1962," *Bird-Banding*, 34(4), 191-199 (1963).
- 4) Raveling, D. G. and Warner, D. W. : "Plumages, Molt and Morthometry of Tennessee Warblers," *Bird-Banding*, 36(3), 169-179 (1965).
- 5) Bent, A. C. : *Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers*, Dover Pub., New York, 1963, Part 1, p. 79.

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Sandhill Crane at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca County: On 20 October 1968 at 10:30 A.M. Margaret Otis, Katharine Price, Sam Sweet and I saw a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) at Montezuma Refuge near Rt. 89 on the west edge of the Refuge. The crane was feeding among Canada Geese in the plowed fields to the east of the parking area across the road from South Spring Pool.

Binoculars used to study the bird, which was approximately 200 yards away, were 6 × 30, 7 × 35, and 7 × 50. Identification features seen were even greyish body color, drooping tail plumes, sloping forehead with dark patch, and a body seemingly heavier than that of a Great Blue Heron. The bird was probing in the earth. After ten minutes of observation, we watched the bird fly south, head and neck fully extended, body arching above the plane of the head.

After our sighting, we notified Refuge Headquarters, returned to Cornell and reported the bird to Dr. Sally Spofford at the Laboratory of Ornithology, who telephoned others in the area. We learned later that there were a number of sightings of this bird at the Refuge that day, and some photographs were taken.

It appears that the last specimens of *G. canadensis* in New York State were taken in the 1880's. The only recent Montezuma sighting was on 30 July 1948 by R. Fischer and E. Chalif, reported in *The Wilson Bulletin*.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The sequel to this report is as follows. The crane was seen by various observers through October 24, then was unreported until November 9 when Clayton Hardy saw it in flight. On November 13 it was found on a back road near the Refuge, by Mr. Richard Brand of Tyre, with the left wing badly broken and dragging. The crane was rushed to Cornell where veterinarians inserted a pin and bandaged the wound. At the Laboratory of Ornithology it was turned loose in a pen containing two other Sandhills, under study by George Archibald, graduate student from Nova Scotia. For several days it seemed in good shape, then stopped eating, weakened, and died the night of November 18-19. On autopsy, it was found to have extensive embolisms in lungs and air sacs, result of the gunshot wound in the wings.

The Sandhill Crane will be the subject of the "Photographs of New York State Rarities" article in the next (May) issue of the *Kingbird*, which will summarize recent sightings in the state.