

NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

Some comments on Yellow-rumped Warbler molt: When K. C. Parkes (*Kingbird* 35:114-115; 1985) reported the occurrence of a molting Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) on Great Gull Island, a non-breeding location, on 28 August 1983, he compared it to a series of molt data from Canadian specimens in the Carnegie Museum collection. I present here molt data on 14 New York and two New Jersey birds which may help to better establish the temporal context of the Great Gull Island bird within this species' molt scheme.

Data on the 14 New York birds were obtained while banding at Jenny Lake, near Corinth in northern Saratoga County, at an elevation of about 380 m. Yellow-rumped Warblers commonly breed at this location. Two October birds were captured at Island Beach State Park near Seaside Park, New Jersey, where the species occurs very abundantly as a migrant during October and November, and is less numerous as a wintering species. These results are summarized in Table 1, where the estimated Great Gull Island data are inserted between birds 8 and 9.

At Jenny Lake, some of the banded breeding birds have been recaptured one or two years after banding as late as 17 July. Seven females with eggs in their oviducts have been captured between 6 June and 10 July, with 30 June the average date. The exact status of August and September birds is not known, but I believe from these and other observations that birds captured through August are primarily local breeders or birds dispersed from nearby breeding territories whereas most September birds are passing migrants. Small numbers of very newly fledged juveniles were captured 1-10 July, while peak numbers of immatures were banded 11-20 September as presumed migrants.

Compared to most of the late August-early September captures at Jenny Lake, the Great Gull Island bird's state of molt appears retarded. This kind of variability between molting individuals is not uncommon. However, it does seem unusual that this bird, which appeared to be in the vanguard of migration or dispersal, was so behind the molt schedule of individuals from a relatively nearby breeding area about 275 km from Great Gull Island.

The tabulated results suggest that molt in some individuals commences about 5 July. This coincides with the first capture of newly fledged juveniles. I have captured adults as late as 10 July with no indication of molt, and the state of molt of birds 3 and 5 suggest that molt possibly may begin as late as 15 July. Bird 4 and the Great Gull Island bird are in the same approximate state of molt at dates differing by a month. Similarly, birds 4 and 11 differ by about a month. The greatest temporal variation occurs between birds 10 and 16, which differ by about 40 days in the completion of their molt.

Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron Street, Schenectady, New York 12309

Table 1. Molt data on Yellow-rumped Warblers

Date	Sex	Primaries									Secondaries						Retrices					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
11 Jul 87	M	1/4	Sh																			
17 Jul 83	M	Sh	Sh																			
22 Jul 88	F	Sh	M																			
28 Jul 87	M	7/8	7/8	3/4	1/2	Sh											1/2	1/3				
4 Aug 77	F	3/4	1/2	M																		
20 Aug 82	U	N	N	N	N	3/4	Sh										N	3/4	3/4	2/3	2/3	Sh
27 Aug 77	F	N	N	N	N	3/4	3/4	Sh			1/2						N	N	3/4	3/4	2/3	2/3
28 Aug 77	F	N	N	N	N	N	N	3/4	2/3	2/5	N	N	3/5	Sh			N	N	N	N	N	N
23 Aug 83	F	3/4	3/4	2/3	1/3												1/3	1/3	1/3	1/3	1/3	1/3
2 Sep 77	U	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3/4	2/3	N	N	3/4	1/3	Sh	M	N	N	N	N	N	N
4 Sep 77	M	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	7/8	3/4	N	3/4	2/3	2/3	1/3	Sh	N	N	N	N	N	N
5 Sep 77	F	N	N	3/4	2/3	1/3	Sh										1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	
10 Sep 77	F	N	N	N	N	N	N	2/3	1/2	1/3	N	3/5	Sh	M			N	N	N	N	N	N
21 Sep 80	M	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	7/8	1/2	Sh	M	N	N	N	N	N	N
26 Sep 81	M	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1/2	N	N	N	N	N	N
20 Oct 84	F	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3/4	2/3	2/3	N	N	N	N	N	N
10/20/84	F	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	7/8	N	N	3/4				N	N	N	N	N	N

Blank space — old feather

Sh — closed sheath

M — feather missing

N — new, fully regrown feather

Fraction — amount of regrowth

* — Great Gull Island bird