

At 1008 on 2 Nov 2021 at Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station in eastern Wisconsin, staff caught an after-hatch year female Sharp-shinned Hawk during normal banding operations. We processed the bird, banding it with a USGS band (1893-44316) and took morphometric measurements (wing 206 mm, tail 157 mm, mass 168 g). We observed that primary 5 (P5) in the right wing had grown in entirely upside-down (Figure 1A, 1B). The feather was neither loose nor broken, but switched dorsal and ventral planes of the feather. The feather itself appeared brown, lacking the blue cast of adult feathers and was visually shorter than the surrounding primaries. The individual bird showed no other signs of molt in the right or left wings (Figure 1C), tail, or body plumage. All other plumage appeared typical.

Aside from this abnormal feather, this bird appeared healthy on all other metrics. Through palpation I scored this female as having an evenly-rounded keel, indicating developed breast muscle. The apparent gap in the wing and angle of the ingrown feather suggests her flight capabilities were not hindered. Different groups of birds employ different modes of molt depending on lifestyle. Raptors and other large birds employ a stepwise molt where remiges at different locations are replaced at the same time, producing multiple smaller gaps while maintaining the wing's surface integrity and the bird's ability to fly (Pyle 2006).

The exact cause of this feather abnormality is uncertain. Cannell et al. (1983) noted a conspicuously browner tail feather without any wear in an adult Rose-breast Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), which they suggested was due to a defect in the feather follicle or that the follicle itself had been damaged. Throughout the life of a bird, the same follicle will produce feathers of different forms and function, but once fully grown, molt of the entire feather is the only mechanism to repair damage (Gill 2007). Any genetic changes in this chain of feather growth may impact the resulting feather phenotype. Additionally, though P5 in the Sharp-shinned Hawk is shorter than the surrounding primaries, it does not indicate it was the last to molt based on the observed molt pattern in the group of raptors (Bildstein et al. 2020, Jul. - Sep. 2022

Liguori et al. 2020). I suggest that this feather was molted in during the second or third prebasic molt, but some follicular defect, due to prior injury or genetics, caused the development of an otherwise normal primary to be flipped.

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Daniel E. Erickson, 7044 Auburn Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
email: ericksda56901@gmail.com

American Goldfinch banded in Ohio recaptured in spring and fall in Michigan

On 14 April 2021, during the regular spring migration monitoring and stopover ecology research conducted at the Meadow Station at

Lake St. Clair Metropark, Macomb County, Michigan (42° 34' 45.0" N, 82° 48' 9.2" W), a SY-M American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) was recaptured (band no. 2870-75138). This bird was banded by Mark Shieldcastle as a SY-M on 7 Jan 2021 near Wightman's Grove, Sandusky County, Ohio (41° 21' 36.4" N, 83° 04' 59.9" W), so the bird moved 85 miles (137 km) N from the banding location. This same bird was subsequently recaptured two more times at the Meadow Station in the fall season, on 1 Aug and 2 Sep 2021, suggesting that it was a locally breeding bird, not a migrant through the park since migration does not commence here until mid-September.

**Unexpected directional movement
of a spring migrant
Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Over the past decade or more at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Macomb County, Michigan, I have exchanged several banded birds with Tom Bartlett, who bands on Kelley's Island, Ohio (and elsewhere). This may not be too surprising since the two sites are only 68 miles (110 km) apart, and on an almost perfect north-south line. So it was a bit surprising that, on 28 Jun 2017 an AHY-M Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) banded (band no. K[6100]-01044) on Kelley's Island (41° 36' 30" N, 82° 40' 30" W) on 17 May 2017 was recaptured at a private residence near Battle Creek, Calhoun County, in southwestern Michigan (42° 16' 53" N, 85° 16' 53" W). So this bird moved 142 miles (229 km) WNW in 42 days to a presumed breeding area, which is unexpected given that the typical direction of spring migrants, whether they are circum-Gulf or trans-Gulf migrants, is to the north or northeast. The recapture of this individual was previously mentioned (Chartier et al. 2021, *North American Bird Bander* 46: 3-8) in a larger study, but without the details presented here.

**Two unusual American Robin
re-encounters from Michigan**

In summer of 2021, a report was received from the Bird Banding Lab about an American Robin that was banded at Lake St. Clair Metropark,

Macomb County, Michigan, on 16 Oct 2020 as a hatch-year, sex unknown (band no. 1412-70655). The re-encounter report states that it was found on 15 May 2021 "1.3 miles [2.1 km] ENE from Lakeside". This is a weather station, not a town, but is about 0.8 miles [1.3 km] SW of where it was banded. Additional codes in the report indicate that the bird was released alive and the band was left on the bird. This is usually only the case when another bander catches a bird, but it was even stranger when the "how obtained" code indicated it was "caught in fishing gear". This is a code that is often used for tangled gulls, shorebirds, and ducks, among others, but I could not imagine it being used very often for an American Robin! I emailed the person reporting it, and he said the "bird was found tangled in a fishing line in a small tree at the end of Villa Mar next to the canal." He untangled it and released it apparently unharmed.

Another American Robin, banded on 21 Aug 2011 as a hatch-year, sex unknown, also at Lake St. Clair Metropark (band no. 1292-72836) was reported by Michigan DNR staff to the Bird Banding Lab in fall of 2021 with the how obtained code of 70, the band (only) was "Purchased, eBay, traded or received band from someone else", from a location that was unknown. According to the person who reported the band, she found it in a desk drawer in a DNR office 3.7 km NE from the Metropark, but with no information associated with it on where or when it was originally obtained. She has expressed an interest in volunteering to help at the banding station starting in the spring 2022 season.

Allen T. Chartier
1442 West River Park Drive
Inkster, MI 48141
amazilla3@gmail.com

An old Orange-crowned Warbler

On 2 Apr 2022, we recaptured a female Orange-crowned Warbler (*Leiothlypis celata*) at Mississippi State University (33° 26' 55.5" N 88° 47' 50.2" W) during a workshop led by graduate students for Mississippi State University's student chapter of the Wildlife Society. Records indicate