

The question of how conservative a character is also depends on its variability. Dr. Jehl contends that "Patterns show little variation within species, genera, and sometimes within higher taxa." This point is so fundamental that the reader deserves data which bear on it. This is especially true since degree of relatedness between groups is inferred from the "ease" with which a pattern of one genus can be transformed into the pattern of another genus. For several species, sufficient numbers of individuals were available to perform an analysis of variability. Unquestionably variability occurs, and only the magnitude of it needs description.

Another test of the usefulness of downy plumage pattern as a taxonomic character lies in how well it works in practice. That is, does the character confirm those relationships which virtually all other evidence already supports and about which there is little

existing doubt? If so, then this character can be used to clarify relationships which are controversial or to propose previously unsuspected relationships. At present, however, no clear decision can be made on the usefulness of chick patterns. Some long established close relationships are confirmed (e.g. curlews — godwits), and some are not (e.g. snipe — woodcocks). In some instances a very convincing series of phenetic relationships is suggested by chick patterns (e.g. in Tribe Tringini).

I think it must be concluded that there is probably some information bearing on relationships in Charadrii contained in color patterns of downy young, but it is often clouded by convergence and selection for crypsis. Dr. Jehl's efforts are a valuable contribution to avian systematics and must certainly be considered by others in the field.

M. C. Baker

Obituary

W. E. Clyde Todd (1875-1969)

Three score years and ten was the supposed span of man's life in the days of the Psalmist. Today, thanks to advances in medicine and living standards, that period is lengthened. Few men, however, have laboured *four score years* and more in the field of their choice, and with a devotion and excellence that brought highest satisfaction and recognition.

Since the age of fifteen Clyde Todd gave his life to the field of ornithology, a vocation he had chosen at even an earlier age as a small boy in a rural community of Western Pennsylvania. His first full-time employment at seventeen was with the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In 1899 his association with the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh began — one which lasted seventy years until his death in June 1969. Although retired in 1945 as Curator of Ornithology, Mr. Todd continued to work at the Museum, writing, studying, and classifying its vast collection of birds and their eggs.

While he never visited South America, his superb work on the birds of the Santa Marta region in Colombia in 1922 resulted in his

first award (shared with his co-author, M. A. Carriker, Jr.) of the Brewster Medal, the highest recognition afforded by the American Ornithologists' Union.

Although his study of birds in Western Pennsylvania occupied much of his life and led to the publication of his second outstanding work, *The Birds of Western Pennsylvania*, in 1940, it was the subarctic regions of eastern Canada to which he turned repeatedly and with ever increasing enthusiasm and interest.

Carnegie Museum, over a period of nearly sixty years, sent twenty-five expeditions to the Labrador Peninsula and northeastern Ontario, on twenty of which Mr. Todd was a participant. The journeys were made, as he enjoyed saying, "the hard way" — that is, by canoe, sailing sloop, by sled, or afoot. The purpose of the many trips in which he participated, and others which he directed, was to map the range of birds in that vast area and to ascertain the character and extent of their natural life zones. The result of his observations and collections culminated in 1963 in the publication of his monumental work, *The Birds of the Labrador Peninsula and Adjacent Areas*, published by the University of Toronto Press in cooperation with Carnegie Museum, and with the generous help of grants from Mrs. Alan M. Scaife and Edward O'Neil, both of Pittsburgh. It

was hailed as the finest bird book ever produced in Canada. More than eight hundred pages in length, this volume is descriptive of over three hundred species, illustrated with many photographs taken on various expeditions and with magnificent colour plates by Dr. George M. Sutton, who accompanied Mr. Todd on several of his journeys. Following publication of *The Birds of the Labrador Peninsula*, Mr. Todd received a second Brewster Medal from the American Ornithologists' Union, the only person ever to receive this distinction twice.

Space does not permit a detailed account of Mr. Todd's many expeditions to Labrador and the northern parts of Ontario, each of which is well described in his book, but some deserve particular mention.

Accompanied by Olaus J. Murie as his assistant, one other white man, and three Indian guides, Todd in 1917 traversed the Labrador Peninsula from Seven Islands to Fort Chimo, a three months' canoe trip through virtually unknown country.

In 1926, accompanied by Dr. Sutton and John B. Semple, a Trustee of Carnegie Museum, a bird collecting expedition covered the East Coast of James and Hudson Bay, as far north as Cape Wolstenholme, a three months' trip.

In 1939 Mr. Todd, then in his mid-sixties, and accompanied by Dr. J. Kenneth Doutt, Mammalogist of Carnegie Museum, and Mrs.

Doult as botanist, made the long journey up the Hamilton River to the Grand Falls (now Churchill Falls) of Labrador and beyond. Six years later at the age of seventy, Mr. Todd and Dr. Doult, on a trip lasting from winter into the summer months, visited the northeast shore of Hudson Bay and attempted a traverse across the country, to be turned back, however, because of adverse weather conditions.

Probably no other man knew the Labrador Peninsula as well as did he, not only its birds but in an understanding of the relationship of nature to man in that large and often desolate land which he loved so well, and to which he always referred as the "North Country".

Although his formal education stopped at a very early age, Mr. Todd was extremely well educated; a scholar of Latin and Greek, and a man of wide interests. Even his technical descriptions of birds and their habitats are never pedantic and frequently his descriptions are poetic in their beauty. He refused honorary doctorate degrees because he said he "wasn't well enough educated", but education may not be measured by formal credits.

He was a man of few words, small in stature but strong of heart and great of mind. His contributions toward knowledge of the Labrador Peninsula and other areas of his beloved North Country have enriched us all.

Lawrence C. Woods, Jr.