

1977

## Information Exchange

North American Bird Bander

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### Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1977) "Information Exchange," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 2 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol2/iss1/10>

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Readers are welcome to submit requests for assistance on any facet of study relating to banding. We will be happy to publish lists of banders' projects (including graduate student projects), requests for data on a particular species, sightings of color-marked birds, etc.

### Continental color-marking plan for the Purple Martin

Although several thousand Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) have been banded, very little is known and understood about their dispersal and migration from the breeding and wintering areas. Even recovery records leave many important questions unanswered — What is the postbreeding dispersal pattern? Where do breeding and hatching year individuals stage and roost prior to and during migration? Where do martins from each state or province winter and does their migration route differ? How widely do birds from each state or province disperse after the winter?

A concentrated effort to color-mark martins on a continental scale and a coordinated observation effort have been planned by M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz and Jerome A. Jackson and should help answer many of these questions. Each state, group of states, or province will be assigned a two-color plastic leg band combination. Leg and/or wing markers may be used at a later time (both are presently being used on a small-scale experimental basis in Ontario and Maryland). All color bands will be ordered from the same source in order to standardize colors. Only nestlings and/or breeding adults will be color-marked at the present time because roosts often consist of individuals from several states.

All banders and subpermittees are encouraged to participate in this project. Detailed directions and the continental color-marking plan will be sent to interested individuals. The source for the plastic color leg bands and a key to age and sex for adults will be sent to banders who plan to participate. A capture technique for adults is also available upon request. All inquiries should be sent to: Kathy Klimkiewicz, Biologist, Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland 20811.

### Color-marked Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures

White vinyl wing markers have been placed on Black and Turkey Vultures near Blacksburg, Virginia, in a study of their movements.

Persons who observe such marked vultures are asked to note the species, wing marker, and date and location of the sighting. Send this information to the Bird Banding Laboratory with a copy to Irvine D. Prather, Dept. of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

### Color-banded Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers

Last year the Surinam Forest Service color-banded nearly 3,300 Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, resulting in 14 spring and summer sightings and recoveries from the United States and Canada.

Again, in 1977, large numbers of these species will be color-banded along the Surinam coast. As in 1976, birds will be banded above the tarsus ("knee") with a standard aluminum band and **two orange** plastic bands of about the same size as the aluminum band.

Reports of observations should be sent to the Bird Banding Laboratory, with a copy to Arie L. Spaans, Surinam Forest Service, P.O. Box 436, Paramaribo, Surinam, South America. Please report species, date and location of observation, the position of the aluminum and color-bands (left or right leg) and, if more than one band is on a leg, which band is above, which below, and which in the middle (some birds have all three bands on one leg). Also, include the number of color-banded birds involved.