

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. 2 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol2/iss2/8>

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Information exchange

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 Bald Eagles

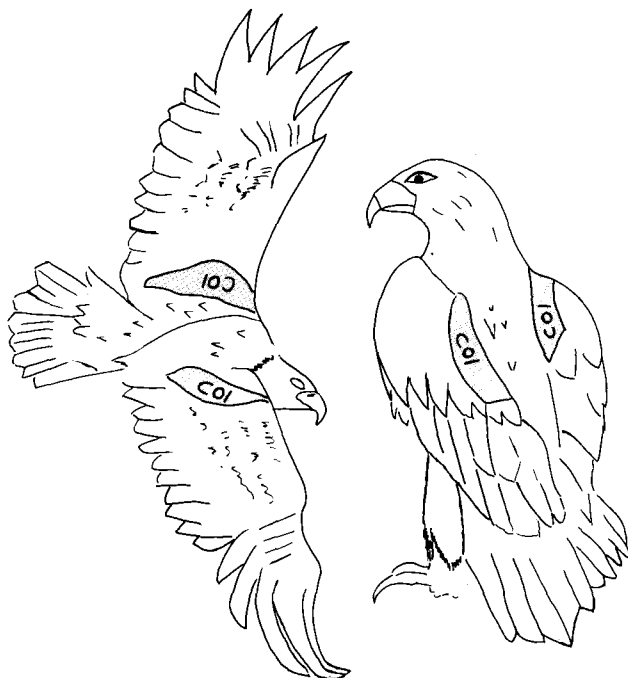
Adult and immature Bald Eagles captured on their wintering grounds in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado have been marked with yellow vinyl wing markers.

Help is needed to determine their migration routes to their nesting areas which, it is thought, are in north central Canada.

Markers are attached to each wing (see sketches) and have a black number between C01 and C99 on the dorsal surface. Markers are expected to stay on the eagles at least five years, and efforts to capture and mark more eagles will continue in future years.

Information needed: (1) Age of eagle (immature or adult); (2) Marker number if possible; (3) Location of sighting (state or province, county, distance from nearest landmark); (4) Date of sighting; (5) Activity and condition of the bird; (6) Observer's name and address.

Please send information to Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20811 with a copy to SLV Bald Eagle Project, c/o Alan R. Harmata, Stove Prairie, Bellview, CO 80512 (Ph: 303-484-9247).



International Shorebird Surveys, 1977-78

A cooperative International Shorebird Survey scheme was started in 1975 to obtain information on shorebird migration and to identify and document areas of major importance. This scheme has been highly successful, with much very valuable information on shorebird distribution and migration coming from contributors throughout eastern Canada and the U.S.A., the Caribbean Islands and Central and South America. Information from the scheme will be valuable in assessing requirements for the future protection and conservation of the birds and their habitat.

In 1977 we are anxious to continue and extend the scheme in as many areas as possible. Any observer who may be able to participate in regular survey counts of shorebirds during spring and autumn migration periods, as well as during the winter in shorebird wintering areas, is asked to contact one of the undersigned. Occasional counts from observers visiting shorebird areas on an irregular basis would also be most welcome.

For areas in Canada: Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7.

For areas in the U.S.A., Caribbean Islands, Central and South America: Brian A. Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Mass. 02345, U.S.A.

Shorebird colour-marking

In 1977, the Canadian Wildlife Service will again be carrying out extensive banding and colour-marking of shorebirds in James Bay. Last year, over 12,400 shorebirds were captured during July and August resulting in over 580 reports of colour-marked birds in eastern North America and South America. Much valuable information on migration routes is being obtained and observers are again asked to look out for and report any colour-dyed or colour-banded shorebirds that they may see.

Reports should include details of species (with age if possible), place, date, colour-marks and, if possible, notes on the numbers of other shorebirds present. For colour-dyed birds, please record the

colour and area of the bird that was dyed. For colour bands and standard metal leg bands, please record which leg the bands were on, whether they were above or below the "knee", the colours involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. right leg, blue over metal etc.).

All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20811, with a copy to Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7.

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.

Changes at the BBL

As of the first week in May, several personnel changes were made at the BBL.

Jay Sheppard has left the BBL to become Staff Zoologist with the Office of Endangered Species. John Tauntin has moved into the Woodcock program. And Kathy Klimkiewicz is now a full-time biologist at the BBL.

We wish them all well in their new positions.