

1979

Information Exchange

North American Bird Bander

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Shorebird colour-marking

In 1979, the Canadian Wildlife Service will be continuing a large-scale program of banding and colour-marking shorebirds in James Bay. Since 1974, over 38,500 shorebirds have been captured, resulting in more than 1,700 "bird days" of sightings of dyed birds ranging from eastern Canada to South America. Much valuable information on migration routes and strategies 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 (yellow or light blue), and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. right lower leg, blue over metal, etc.).

All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to the Bird Banding Laboratory with a copy to Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3Z7.

International shorebird surveys: 1979

A cooperative International Shorebird Survey scheme has been organized by the Canadian Wildlife Service as well as the Manomet Bird Observatory since 1974 to obtain information on shorebird migration and to identify and document areas of major importance. Much very valuable information has come from contributors throughout eastern Canada and the U.S.A., the Caribbean Islands, and Central and South America, and is being used in assessing requirements for the future protection and conservation of the birds and their habitat. It is planned to continue the project in 1979.

Any observer who may be able to participate in regular 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, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3Z7.

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

(Note: Both projects progressed satisfactorily last season. In James Bay we captured over 8,200 shorebirds during July and August. The total was somewhat lower than in previous years owing mainly to the appearance of very few juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers after a poor breeding year in the Arctic. In September I was able to observe 16 of our marked birds in Surinam, South America, during a field trip which was made possible by National Geographic. National Geographic is planning to publish an article on bird migration which will appear in the August issue of the magazine. Our surveys are also providing much valuable data, and we are beginning to piece together a picture of shorebird distribution throughout eastern North America. R.I.G.M.)

Color-marked Golden and Bald Eagles

The research personnel at the University of Washington and Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo have released Golden and Bald Eagles wearing colored vinyl markers in the area of American Camp, Washington.

These eagles have been marked in order to determine the movements of the Golden and Bald Eagle populations that winter on San Juan Island. The colored markers are visible from the rear and the sides of a perching bird, and from above and below a flying bird. Marker colors are orange and yellow.

If you should see such a bird, please note location of bird, date of sighting, activity of bird. Please mail this information with your name and address to the Bird Banding Laboratory, with a copy to Eagle Rehabilitation Program, Woodland Park Zoological Gardens, 5500 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103. Tel: (206) 625-4550 or 625-2244.