

1979

## News, Notes, Comments

North American Bird Bander

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Logo sketch by Barb Petorak

### Vulture Vibes

In the previous column, I mentioned the incident of the disappearing vultures. The vultures in the roost that I observed seemed to vanish, — with the exception of an obviously nesting pair — in the latter portion of June and reappeared in the middle of August. Where these birds went, remains a mystery. I have a theory that they migrated farther north for the hotter portion of the summer; however, being unsuccessful in my tagging attempt, I am uncertain of this. This will be one of my priorities to investigate next summer when they return. If anyone can shed any light on this strange occurrence, please let me know.

I made several observations over this past summer: the pair that nested here were successful. I found at least one youngster in the roost. A bird that was tagged at least 65 km away was observed in a roost along a river. This bird either foraged for food and was trapped and tagged 65 km from the roost, or it foraged for food at the roost area and decided to stay. Another observation was that during rainy periods the birds in my nearest roost preferred to roost on power poles. Luckily, there were no electrocutions. I surmised that they could dry their feathers more easily out in the open and could search for food more readily.

With regard to the electrocution problem: I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. John Ledger from the Vulture Study Group of Johannesburg, South Africa at the International Vulture Symposium in Santa Barbara, California in March. He is experiencing problems with vultures in South Africa landing and roosting on electrical installations, overhead transmission lines and poles. Not only are the birds being electrocuted, but they are creating a serious problem as they knock out the power to some remote areas as well. In April of this year, 38 birds were electrocuted in one area in just one week. If anyone can provide any help on this problem, please contact:

John Ledger  
Vulture Study Group  
P.O. Box 4190  
Johannesburg, 2000  
South Africa

I have been asked to inquire about the different methods used to trap vultures. If anyone has a successful technique, please drop me a line. We know of someone interested in developing a nearly perfect trap, if there is such a thing.

I am in the process of trying to census the vulture population in Pennsylvania. I hope to start in the spring of 1980 when the vultures return. Any bander observing vultures — Turkey or Black — or who knows of roosts in the area, is urged to contact me as soon as possible.

For any other problems, solutions, or information in general, please contact me: Nancy Karner, 136 Pennsylvania Ave., Bangor, PA 18013.

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### Executive Director Sought Raptor Conservation

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association is seeking an executive director in order to expand its programs in conservation and raptor biology. Some management experience is preferred. For further information, send curriculum vitae to Dr. Frank B. Gill, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

### Hybrid chickadees

As part of a study concerning the possible hybridization of Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees in New Jersey, I am hoping to accomplish two things: 1) an accurate assessment of the breeding ranges and area of overlap in the geographic distribution of these two species, and 2) a determination of how their wing and tail lengths change with age.

Consequently, I would greatly appreciate any information, both old and new, concerning the following: 1) nesting records, 2) records of chickadees banded during breeding season, preferably verified by brood patch or cloacal protuberance, and their corresponding wing and tail lengths (as well as age, sex, weight, and fat count if available), and 3) data on the age, sex, wing length, and tail length of chickadee repeats, retraps, returns, and recoveries.

All responses will be answered and should be sent to Christopher Thompson, c/o Dr. John Terborgh, Department of Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08540.

### Paul A. Stewart Awards

The Paul A. Stewart Fund for Ornithological Research has been established by donations from Paul A. Stewart. Income from this endowment will be awarded annually to support research in ornithology, especially studies in bird movements based on banding and analyses of recoveries and returns and investigations pertaining to economic ornithology.

Several Stewart Awards in the amount of \$200 each will be available each year. Stewart Awards will be equally available to students, amateurs, and professionals. Interested persons may write: Clait E. Braun, Wildlife Research Center, P.O. Box 2287, Fort Collins, CO 80522. Completed applications must be received by 1 March 1980.

(Dr. Stewart is a life member of EBBA. This award is handled by The Wilson Ornithological Society.)

### Special discussion for bird banders at COS-WOS meeting

Bird banders and other persons interested in increasing the usefulness of data gathered during banding will meet for a discussion during the joint Cooper Ornithological Society—Wilson Ornithological Society meeting in Corpus Christi on 19-23 March 1980. in Florida

For further information, contact Stephen M. Russell, Dept. of Ecology and Evol. Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.



### Name change for *Bird-Banding*

Northeastern Bird-Banding Association has announced that it will change the name of its journal from *Bird-Banding* to *Journal of Field Ornithology*.

The *Journal of Field Ornithology* will be a broad-spectrum journal, not exclusively for the bird-bander, including articles on migration, behavior, various field methods and studies, etc. It will be published quarterly and will include papers, notes, and extensive review of the world's literature. It is expected to have wide appeal to professionals and serious amateur ornithologists.

Those wishing to receive the journal should send dues for Northeastern Bird-Banding Association membership to Margarette Bon, Old Ashby Rd., New Ipswich, NH 03071. Dues are: Student — \$6; Individual—\$8; Family—\$10; Institutional—\$10; Contributing—\$15 or more; Life—\$200. Membership also supports student research through awards from the Bergstrom Fund and helps to train field ornithologists and banders. Annual meetings provide workshop sessions, papers, and field trips.