

1980

## Recent Literature

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# Recent Literature

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Edited by Martin K. McNicholl

## **Banding Equipment and Techniques**

**Banding as a tool in bird studies.** G.M. Jonkel. 1979. Proc. 2nd North Amer. Conf. on Common Loon Research and Management: 11-17. (Brief history of banding in North America, with examples of kinds of data obtained with the aid of banding.) MM

**Needs of the Canadian Wildlife Service for migratory bird research/Besoins de recherche sur les oiseaux migrants.** S. Wendt. 1980. Bull. Can. Soc. Zool. 11(1):8-13. (Outline of C.W.S. research on migratory birds, including role of banding.) MM

## **Identification, Molts, and Plumages**

**Prebasic molt of the Northern Oriole.** S.G. Sealy. 1979. Can. J. Zool. 57:1473-1478. (Based on color-banded Manitoba birds. Adult males begin molt a few days after females and 2nd year males, all molting on the breeding ground after the young are independent. One SY male banded on 20 June was found dead 10 July the same year, 245 km southeast in MN) MM

**Field identification of the flicker forms and their hybrids in North America.** K. Kaufman. 1979. Continental Birdlife 1:4-15. (Detailed discussion of the external characteristics of Yellow-shafted, Red-shafted, and Gilded races of the Common Flicker and their hybrids and introgressants. As many of the features discussed would be easiest to determine in the hand, banders could determine the extent of variation in each character at given localities.) MM

**Starling.** M. Sanders. 1979. Continental Birdlife 1:18. (Concise summary of features used to distinguish sexes.) MM

**Notes on an Eastern-Crimson Rosella hybrid.** E. Wyndham. 1979. Corella 3:32-33. (The hybrid was banded and recaptured 10 times, with additional sightings. It was unsuccessful in one breeding attempt and mated at least once with an Eastern Rosella. A table compares the hybrid with the two parent species.) MM

**The juvenile plumage of the Shining Flycatcher.** W.E. Boles. 1979. Corella 3:86. (Juvenile plumage of *Myiagra alecto* described for the first time.) MM

**An age character in Australian Fruit-doves.** W.E. Boles. 1979. Corella 3:82-83. (Species with emarginated outer primaries show age variation, while those with tapered outer primaries do not.) MM

## **North American Banding Results**

**Whooping Crane sightings — prairie provinces 1977 and 1978.** W.J.D. Stephen. 1979. Blue Jay 37:163-168. (Includes exact color-band combinations for 2 sightings in Sask.) MM

**Annual report to banders: summary of birds banded in Canada in 1977.** R.M. Poulin, K.L. Newell, S.J. O'Donnell, and S. Wendt. 1979. Can. Wildl. Serv. Progress Notes No. 102. (The first of a proposed annual feature, summarizing numbers of banders in each province and territory, number of each species banded in these political units, number of banders banding each species, top three species per province, and top three exclusive of waterfowl per province. The stilts in Table 3 should be listed for Alta., not Sask. — as correctly listed in Table 6.) MM

**Behaviour of captive Spruce Grouse at the time broods break up and juveniles disperse.** J.H. Alway and D.A. Boag. 1979. Can. J. Zool. 57:1311-1317. (No overt aggression occurred among banded brood-mates at brood break-up or among unrelated birds at onset of autumn dispersal, but aggression was common among members of each sex at time of spring dispersal.) MM

**Fall migratory behavior of Common Loons on the staging grounds.** J.W. McIntyre and J. Barr. 1979. Proc. 2nd North Amer. Conf. on Common Loon Research and Management: 19-22. (Loon banded in late summer in MN wintered 120 km southeast.) MM

**Nesting biology and development of young in Ontario Black Terns.** E.H. Dunn. 1979. Can. Field-Nat. 93:276-281. (Re-trap data suggest that Black Terns will return to the same general area to breed at previous sites if still suitable, as predicted by McNicholl's site tenacity and group adherence paper. Growth rates are based on banded young. Color bands on adults were too rarely visible to be very helpful.) MM

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**Functions of display flights by males of the Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla* (Vieill.) on Sable Island, Nova Scotia.** E.H. Miller. 1979. *Can. J. Zool.* 57:876-893. (Observations on color-banded males showed that unpaired males exclude others from display flight areas, that display flight areas include eventual nest sites but not always foraging areas, and that nesting areas are sometimes defended by males, but foraging sites and brood-rearing areas are not.) MM

**Optimal size of territory in the Clay-colored Sparrow.** R.W. Knapton. 1979. *Can. J. Zool.* 57:1358-1370. (Over 800 birds in two populations were banded, color bands being placed on territorial birds studied in more detail. Territories were smaller than in other open-country species, probably because adults foraged off territory.) MM

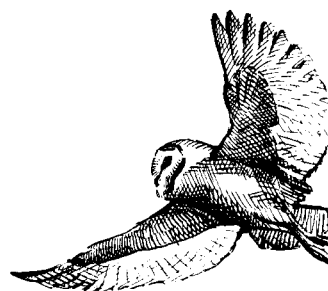
**Canada Geese of the Hudson Bay lowlands.** M.M. Gillespie. 1979. Manitoba Dept. Mines, Nat. Resources and Environment, Winnipeg. 19 pp. (Banding data, including color bands and neck collars plus transmitters, have provided information on nesting regions, migration routes, harvest areas, mortality rates, and population size of this low Arctic population.) MM

**Aggression, superterritories, and reproductive success in Tree Swallows.** R.N. Harris. 1979. *Can. J. Zool.* 57:2072-2078. (Color-banded swallows in areas with short intra-box distances defended the area around more than one box. Aggressive activity by adults did not reduce reproductive success.) MM

**Influence of weather on aggression in Tree Swallows.** R.N. Harris. 1979. *Can. Field-Nat.* 93:437-438. (Cool, foggy weather reduced territorial aggression by color-banded swallows.) MM

**Population regulation in Spruce Grouse: a working hypothesis.** D.A. Boag, K.H. McCourt, P.W. Herzog, and J.H. Alway. 1979. *Can. J. Zool.* 57:2275-2284. (Interactions of density and yearling recruitment as indicated to date in the first 10 years of a study involving color-banded birds in both the wild and in captivity. Detailed movements traced through telemetry in some cases.) MM

**Effect of social environment within the brood on dominance rank in gallinaceous birds (Tetraonidae and Phasianidae).** D.A. Boag and J.H. Alway. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:44-49. (Effects of brood composition on dominance were studied on color-banded Red Grouse and Japanese Quail in captivity in Alberta and Scotland.) MM



### Foreign Banding Results

**American Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis acufilavidus* in the Netherlands.** J. Scharringa. 1979. *Dutch Birding* 1:60. (Banded bird found dead in Zeeland had been banded as a chick in North Carolina about 6 months earlier. If the usual U.S.-breeding subspecies, this is the first record of the subspecies in the western Palearctic.) MM

**Niche separation in three species of waterbirds.** P.R. Martin, B.G. Thomson, and S.J. Witts. 1979. *Corella* 3:1-6. (Comparison of three rallids in Australia was aided by the presence in the community of Dusky Moorhens, color-banded in a previous study.) MM

**Observations of the Lewin's Rail on the central coast of New South Wales.** G.P. Clancy. 1979. *Corella* 3:11-12. (First detected in area by being caught in mist nets.) MM

**Travels of a Gannet.** D. Brewer. 1980. *Ont. Bird Banding Assoc. Feb-Mar 1980 Newsletter*: 2-3. (Gannet banded on Ailsa Craig, Scotland in 1966, bred in Norway in 1970 & 1971, and died in Libya in 1978. Several other recoveries of Ailsa Craig birds are mentioned.) MM

**Seabird islands. No. 66. One Tree Island, Queensland.** K. Hulsman. 1979. *Corella* 3:37-40. (Lists banding and recoveries of Eastern Reef Egret, Black-naped Tern, and Black Noddy 1973-1977.) MM

**Seabird islands. No. 68. Cat Island, Tasmania.** J. Warhan. 1979. *Corella* 3:42-45. (Lists bandings and recoveries of Little Penguin, Short-tailed Shearwater, Australasian Gannet, and Silver Gull, 1951-1969. Penguins flipper-banded with sheep ear tags.) MM

**Seabird islands. No. 69. Goose Island, Tasmania.** N.P. Brothers and D.R. Miledge. 1979. *Corella* 3:46-47. (Lists bandings and recoveries of Cape Barren Goose.) MM

**Results from banding Eurasian Coots in Victoria, 1953-1977.** P.I. Norman. 1979. *Corella* 3:73-76. (Numbers of Eurasian Coots banded in three Australian states, primarily Victoria, analysis of recoveries, and weights in relation to season.) MM



MM = Martin K. McNicholl

Note: In order to meet publication deadlines, this listing has been prepared without the benefit of several abstracts by other contributors. These were delayed in the mail and will be included in the next issue. MM

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### Who is . . .? **Martin K. McNicholl** Editor of Recent Literature section

The demonical "laughter" of a loon flying over a boat being rowed by his grandfather remains Martin McNicholl's earliest memory of birds. This was on his first visit to the McNicholl family cabin in the "shield" of Ingolf, Ontario at the age of three. By the time he had learned to print, he had a list of birds seen, including two "kinds" of "wild canary," one from the prairies behind his Winnipeg home, the other from some of the city parks. Through childhood, his interest in birds was aided by considerable periods of time spent at Ingolf, and at his mother's family cottage on the great inland sea, Lake Winnipeg, and a nearby farm. Thus, he experienced a rich variety of habitats at an early age.

Martin took his B. Sc. (Hons) degree at the University of Manitoba. Between third and fourth years, he was employed by Dr. Roger M. Evans as a summer assistant, surveying birds on the property of the newly acquired university field station at Delta Marsh, visiting colonies of various species in southern Manitoba, and studying breeding ecology of Arctic Terns at Churchill. The latter study resulted in several publications by Evans and McNicholl, both together and independently, including the design of a trap for catching incubating terns.

The University of Manitoba field station at Delta became Martin's "home" for the next two summers, while he studied the breeding biology and ecology of Forster's Tern for a M. Sc. degree, with Roger Evans as supervisor. In 1971, he moved to Edmonton, Alberta, to start work on a Ph.D. on Blue Grouse behavior under Dr. Fred C. Zwickel at the University of Alberta. Field work was on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. During both thesis projects, he also conducted minor studies on other birds — grebes and blackbirds at Delta, nighthawks on Vancouver Island.

Although he has published numerous scientific papers and has been involved in several conservation issues, Martin considers himself a naturalist first, scientist and conservationist second. He has been active in several naturalist groups in Canada, and is currently Editor of the Alberta Naturalist and Chairman of the Loran L. Goulden Memorial Award Committee. The latter award is given annually by the Edmonton Natural History Club to an individual who has contributed substantially to the study of nature in Alberta. Apart from the delights of working with birds and writing about them, he enjoys reading and writing about his fellow naturalists, past and present.