

1981

## Recent Literature

North American Bird Bander

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# Recent Literature

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Edited by Martin K. McNicholl



## Bibliographies and writing aids

**Guidelines for Journal of Wildlife Management manuscripts, 1980.** J.D. Gill and G.H. Healy. 1980. Wildlife Soc., Washington. 29 pp. (Although journals vary considerably in style, and much of the format suggested in this paper does not apply in other journals, these guidelines provide a handy framework for preparing manuscripts, including useful lists of abbreviations and other references to scientific report writing. English names of birds are not capitalized, with instructions to "capitalize only proper names (Cooper's hawk)" in spite of the fact that the English name of a species is a proper name — see Parkes, *Auk* 95:324-326, 1978.) MM

**The Pine Barrens/a bibliography.** B.A. Peel. 1980. New Jersey State Mus. Res. Rept. 4. 23 pp. (Bibliography of natural history publications dating from 1862 to 1977 from a 970,000 acre area of NJ near Philadelphia and New York, including several banding references. A "Glossary" is, in fact, a key to abbreviations.) MM

## Identification, molts, and plumages

**A method for separating juvenal and first-winter Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Common Gulls (*Larus canus*).** A. J. Lauro and B.J. Spencer. 1980. *Amer. Birds* 34:111-117. (A detailed comparison of early plumages of Ring-billed Gulls with those of 2 races of Common Gulls showed that Common Gulls are more even-toned, with less contrast between the centers of brownish wing covert feathers and their edges, but are not necessarily darker as often indicated in field guides. Other useful features include differences in tail band, tail above terminal band, tail coverts, and color of chest and belly.) MM

**Intergradation of eastern American Common Elders.** H.L. Mendall. 1980. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:286-292. (Of 4 bill measurements on adult females useful for separating races, culmen midline length, the measurement most used in the literature, is the least reliable. Plumage patterns are not very useful. Banding data suggest that females which court and pair late on the breeding ground in Maine at a time when others are incubating are young adults.) MM

**Postnuptial molt of the Song Sparrow on Mandarte Island in relation to breeding.** A.A. Dhondt and J.N.M. Smith. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:513-520. (Molt was studied by 133 captures of 69 banded adult Song Sparrows in a non-migratory population. Molt generally follows the usual pattern for passerines, but secondary molt finishes a few days after primary. Non-breeding and early breeding birds of both sexes molt at the same time, but late breeding birds start molt late and a renesting can result in suspension of molt. Body weight increases during molt and decreases after, but remains slightly higher than pre-molt weight.) MM

**Weight, fat class and wing measurements of Ruby-crowned Kinglets during migration.** K.W. Prescott. 1980. *Inland Bird Banding* 52:1-7. (Data from 89 birds in the literature and 149 banded by the author in NJ indicate that males are slightly larger than females, longer-winged birds are heaviest, and the mean weight of coast migrants is slightly lighter than those of inland migrants.) MM

**A description of plumage aberrancy in two wild Canada Geese.** P.R. Godin and D.E. Joyner. 1979. *Ont. Field Biol.* 33(2):46-52. (Detailed description of feathers in abnormal birds, in comparison with normal geese.) MM

## North American banding results

**Mortality and dispersal of the Glaucous-winged Gulls of southern British Columbia.** R.W. Butler, N.A.M. Verbeek, and R.G. Footit. 1980. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:315-320. (Of 1002 recoveries of chick-banded Glaucous-winged Gulls from 11 colonies, more than half were in their first year. Greatest mortality of first and second year birds was in fall. Dispersal was primarily south, almost all on the west coast, with all ages moving similar distances, but distances increasing progressively from August through November.) MM

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**Returns of non-resident banded Chimney Swifts at Kent State University — 1945-1972.** R.W. Dexter. 1979. *Inland Bird Banding* 51:70-71. (Of 1878 swifts banded 1944-1971, 277 returned as summer residents and 95 returned but never bred there. 24 of the non-resident returnees were juveniles. Mean return interval was 2.2 years, with a 1 year mode and 1 to 12 year range.) MM

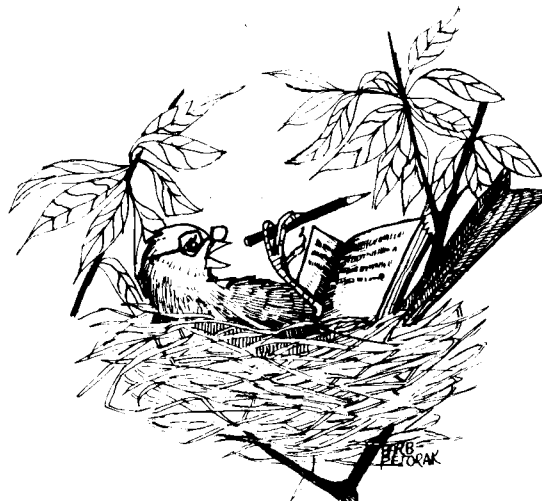
**Distribution and breeding biology of raptors in the Thelon River area, Northwest Territories, 1957-1969.** E. Kuyt. 1980. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:121-130. (Three Peregrines banded along the Thelon River have been recovered in Argentina 2½ months, Peru 6 years, and Ontario 2½ months after banding.) MM

**Breeding biology of Orchard Orioles in a new population in Manitoba.** S.G. Sealy. 1980. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:154-158. (Measurements and weights are given for several adult and juvenile birds of both sexes. One banded male has returned, but to date no females or juveniles. Males were monogamous and the adults appeared to divided care of the broods, which fledged in about 2 weeks, then spent 1 week nearby in close cover.) MM

**Calgary area bluebird trails, 1979.** D. Stiles. 1980. *Pica* 1:80-83. (13 adult Mountain Bluebirds and 106 young Tree Swallows were banded by McNicholl. One bluebird and 3 swallows from previous bandings of adults were recovered within 2½ miles of banding, whereas 3 swallows banded as young were recovered 8 to 62½ miles from banding sites.) MM

**Surplus yearlings and the regulation of breeding density in Blue Grouse.** F.C. Zwickel. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:896-905. (A yearling-only removal experiment in a population of color-banded Blue Grouse demonstrated that large numbers of yearling surplus were present in the population. Although all yearlings occupying vacated positions in an earlier total removal appeared to be of approximately equal weight, yearlings in sequential removals were of decreasing weight, suggesting that these birds were kept from settling by adults or larger yearlings.) MM

**Movements of blackbirds and Starlings in southwestern Quebec and eastern Ontario in relation to crop damage and control.** P.J. Weatherhead, R. Glack, J.R. Bider, and R.D. Titman. 1980. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:75-79. (Seasonal analysis of returns of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Star-



lings banded in the St. Lawrence Valley, Ont.-Que., showed species-specific and population differences in movements. Potential biases in data are discussed, and non-local returns tabulated by season and state-province of return.) MM

**Behavior of Common Terns nesting near Ring-billed Gulls.** P.A. Courtney and H. Blokpoel. 1980. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:336-338. (One member of each pair was captured, banded, and marked on the neck with red nail polish to aid determination of time spent by each bird on the nest and on the territory by the "off-duty" bird. The gulls had little influence on times spent by the terns in various behaviors.) MM

**Unusually large and small eggs in a Red-cockaded Woodpecker clutch.** P. Ramey and J.A. Jackson. 1979. *Inland Bird Banding* 51:66-67. (In 1978 a clutch containing 1 egg larger and 3 eggs smaller than previously reported was found in a hole occupied by a clan of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers that had not nested since 1975. One of the males had been banded at the colony as an adult in 1972, the other as a nestling there in 1975. Both females incubated; 1 had been banded at the colony in 1978 as an adult, the other 2 km away in 1976. Copulation between the 1972 male and the 1978 female was observed.) MM

**Forty-third breeding bird census. 140. Blue gramma-rabbit brush grassland.** D.A. McCallum and D. Leibman. 1980. *Amer. Birds* 34:78-79. (2 banded male Vesper Sparrows and 3 Brewer's Sparrows returned in 1979 to their 1978 territories in N. Mex.) MM



**Winter habitat use by White-tailed Ptarmigan in southwestern Alberta.** P.W. Herzog. 1980. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:159-162. (Color-banded ptarmigan showed sexual differences in altitude used in winter and distances moved. Several marked ptarmigan wintered in their breeding area one winter, but not the next, presumably because of differences between winters in availability of willows.) MM

**Winter mortality in a Gray Partridge population in Manitoba.** R.W. Knapton. 1980. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:190-191. (Declines in 2 coveys of partridge during a severe winter are documented, the coveys differentiated by one bird in each marked with ponchos.) MM

**Breeding success of the Black-crowned Night Heron in the St. Lawrence estuary.** J. Tremblay and L.N. Ellison. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:1259-1263. (Nestlings were marked with colored tape until 10 days of age, then color-banded. 17-48% of marked young disappeared, presumably because of predation; 93% of these at less than 3 weeks old, 60% less than 1 week.) MM

**Forty-third breeding bird census. 153. Coastal scrub. 154. Disturbed coast scrub A. 155. Disturbed coastal scrub B.** D. DeSante and 15 other observers. 1980. *Amer. Birds* 34:81. (25%, 50+%, and 45% respectively of territorial males were color-banded on these Point Reyes Bird Observatory plots. Banded birds indicate that species breeding at high densities — in this case, Song Sparrows — may be underestimated by standard song counts. One mate of a bigamous male White-crowned Sparrow fledged young successfully; the other failed.) MM

**Removal and replacement of male Blue Grouse on persistent and transient territories.** R.A. Lewis and F.C. Zwickel. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:1417-1423. (Replacements of grouse removed from persistent, i.e. regularly used, territories included adults known from their bands to be 2 to 5 years old, most of which had no known previous territories. Males rarely shift territories, but of 14 which did in 10 years, 11 moved from transient to persistent sites, and only 3 moved the other way.— MM

**Nest site selection and productivity of Great Horned Owls in central Minnesota.** R.T. Bohm. 1980. *Raptor Res.* 14:1-6. (Nesting success to fledging of banded young was 58% in nests at the edge of woods and 57% in nests located interiorly.) MM

**Pelagic birds of the northern Gulf of Mexico.** C. D. Duncan and R.W. Harvard. 1980. *Amer. Birds* 34:122-132. (Skeletal remains of a Manx Shearwater banded in Scotland in 1973 were found on N. Padre Island, TX in 1975. Field identification is discussed for several species.) MM

**Gray Partridge winter movements and habitat use in North Dakota.** J.W. Schulz. 1980. *Prairie Nat.* 12:37-42. (Movements of 21 radio-tagged and 22 wing-tagged partridge were influenced by weather. Mean home range was 16.6 ha and mean "mobility" 0.31 km.) MM

**Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle banding project.** Anonymous. 1980. *Eyas* 4(2):6. (200 young of an estimated 250 in the population have been banded 1977-1980.) MM

**Responses of Red-winged Blackbirds to nests of Long-billed Marsh Wrens.** J. Picman. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:1821-1827. (Color-banded, presumably older and more experienced, female Red-winged Blackbirds showed a stronger response to wren nests than unbanded, presumably less experienced, birds. Banded females showed a greater response to wren nests close to blackbird nests than to wren nests farther away.) MM

**Reproductive efficiency and site attachment of Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds.** H.W. Pinel. 1980. *Blue Jay* 38:177-183. (Return rates and distances of banded adults and nestlings at a trail in southwestern Alberta indicate strong site tenacity in adults of both species. Young apparently return to the natal site the next spring, then radiate out to the nearest available vacant sites.) MM

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**Juvenile Prairie Chicken predation by Marsh Hawk.** W.D. Svedorsky. 1980. *Raptor Res.* 14:31-32. (Reactions of brood hen monitored in part by radio-tag.) MM

**Decline and disappearance of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow from Merritt Island, Florida.** P.W. Sykes, Jr. 1980. *Amer. Birds* 34:728-737. (13 color-banded birds showed more movements than previously suspected by members of this endangered race. One male lived at least 8 years and a female at least 4.8 years. Decline is documented and last chance recommendations for preservation are suggested.) MM

**Vocalizations and territorial behavior of wintering Snowy Owls.** D.L. Evans. 1980. *Amer. Birds* 34:748-749. (Observations of color-banded Snowy Owls defined winter territories. Territorial interactions were much more frequent in years of high numbers than when few owls were present.) MM

**Successful releases of captive Barn Owls.** C.D. Marti and P.W. Wagner. 1980. *Raptor Res.* 14:61-62. (A color-banded Barn Owl raised by foster adults in a wild nest was found nesting successfully the next year, and a tame captivity-reared female which escaped was later found nesting in the wild.) MM

**Sexual recognition and anticuckoldry behavior in Savannah Sparrows.** P.J. Weatherhead and R.J. Robertson. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:991-996. (Presentation of models in territories of 11 color-banded Savannah Sparrows showed that males treated models of both sexes as males before nest initiation, differentially as the correct sex during the early nesting season, and as females during the rest of the nesting period.) MM

**Temporal spacing of broods, brood size, and parental care in Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*).** J.N.M. Smith and D.A. Roff. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:1007-1015. (In a population virtually totally color-banded, brood spacing within a season was found to be influenced by size of the earlier brood. Females did not begin to incubate a second clutch while feeding more than 1 young. Triple-brooded females averaged more young raised per year than double-brooded, and nesting success did not vary between the first 2 broods, but was reduced in the third.) MM

**A review of the status of the Great Black-backed Gull in the Great Lakes area.** P.A.M. Anghern, H. Blokpoel, and P. Courtney. 1979. *Ont. Field Biol.* 33(2): 27-33. (Band recoveries of Great Black-backed Gulls

wintering on the Great Lakes have been primarily from the St. Lawrence River estuary colonies, with 2 from Maine.) MM

**Development of stability of single-parent family units in the Song Sparrow.** J.N.M. Smith and J.R. Merkt. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:1869-1875. (Observations of 48 Song Sparrow pairs and their broods in which all adults and young were color-banded showed that a division of feeding by parents to distinct young occurred at fledging and became more marked with time, but that the male's share increased at days 4-8 whether or not the female renested. Limited data suggest that distinct parent-young family units may remain intact from day to day.) MM

**Comparative foraging behavior and efficiency of adult and juvenile Great Blue Herons.** T.E. Quinney and P.C. Smith. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:1168-1173. (Adults were more successful and efficient at prey capture than juveniles, but gradual improvement in prey capture was found in color-marked individual juveniles.) MM

**Hawk Cliff raptor banding station eighth annual report: 1978.** M. Field and D. Field. 1980. *Ont. Bird Banding* 13:2-29. (A decline in numbers of hawks banded is attributed to low numbers because of high-altitude flights of the birds. Tables present banding totals for the year, for parts of the year, per banding effort, and in comparison with other years. Recoveries are detailed, a partial albino Red-tailed Hawk described in detail, and banding success compared with numbers observed on a species basis.) MM

**Occurrences of Harris' Sparrow, Summer Tanager & Dickcissel from Wellington County.** A.D. Brewer and A. Salvadori. 1980. *Ont. Field Biol.* 13:30-32. (3 Ontario rarities caught during banding operations. The Harris' Sparrow was retrapped a few days after banding and observed for several more days.) MM



**Seasonal distribution of offshore and pelagic birds in North Carolina waters.** D.S. Lee and J. Booth, Jr. 1979. *Amer. Birds* 33:715-721. (A Great Skua found dead on a NC beach had been banded 5 months earlier in Iceland.) MM

**Impact of Marsh Wrens on reproductive strategy of Red-winged Blackbirds.** J. Picman. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:337-350. (Territories of color-banded Red-winged Blackbirds were determined, and nesting success compared with distance from Long-billed Marsh Wren nests on these territories. Predation on eggs by wrens was higher in nests closer to wren nests, and predation on color-banded young decreased with age. Clumping of red-wing nests reduced nest predation.) MM

**Sexual dimorphism in two Savannah Sparrow populations.** P.J. Weatherhead. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:412-415. (Contrary to prediction, a monogamous mainland population of Savannah Sparrows at Churchill, Man. showed greater sexual dimorphism than an insular, polygynous population of the Ipswich race on Sable Island, but when only trophic characters were considered, the insular population showed greater sexual dimorphism.) MM

**Hummingbird banding in Delaware County, Oklahoma.** A.M. Baumgartner. 1980. *Inland Bird Banding* 52:8-12. (Preliminary results of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird study, including monthly totals by age and sex, and returns.) MM

**Philopatry in Ring-billed Gulls.** L.K. Southern and W.E. Southern. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:27-32. (Banded birds of both sexes showed a strong tendency to return each year to the same colony and to the same area within a colony.) MM



**Status, distribution, and movements of Ciconiiforms in Colorado.** R.A. Ryder, W.D. Gaul, and G.C. Miller. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:49-58. (Status of all species of the order in the state is reviewed, with banding history and recovery data of Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egrets, and White-faced Ibis given in detail. Most recoveries are from the state or Mexico. Fewer than 10 Cattle Egrets have been banded, 1 of which was recovered locally.) MM

**A three year study of the Great Blue Heron in southwestern British Columbia.** J.P. Kelsall and K. Simpson. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:69-74. (58 of 68 herons color-marked in one colony in 1978 returned in 1979, but 3 others were seen in a colony 22 km away. Color-banding also showed a clear dominance order on feeding areas, and individual variation in fishing methods and tendency for success.) MM

**Post-fledging desertion of colonies by juvenile Least Terns in Texas.** B.C. Thompson and R.D. Slack. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:257 (abstract only). (Fledging date and desertion of colony by young Least Terns were determined through weekly searches for color-marked birds.) MM

**Historical review and status of colonial nesting birds on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon.** S.P. Thompson, C.D. Littlefield, and R.A. Ryder. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:156-164. (Banding recoveries have indicated wintering areas of White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, and Great Egrets which summer at Malheur, and there is one recovery of a Black-crowned Night Heron banded there.) MM

**Dispersion, phenology, and population sizes of nesting colonial seabirds on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.** J.A. Jackson, B.J. Schardien, and C.D. Cooley. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:145-155. (History of nesting of 7 larid species and Black Skimmer, including numbers banded.) MM

**Radiotelemetry and Herring Gull foraging patterns.** R.D. Morris. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:259. (Four radio-tagged brooding gulls showed predictable, individualistic movement patterns. Two that fed daily within 1 km of the colony successfully fed young, whereas 2 that fed daily more than 30 km away did not — abstract only.) MM

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**Chick feeding in Caspian Terns.** J. Quinn. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:259. (First hatched individually marked chicks received more feedings by adults and were more successful in fledging than younger brood mates — abstract only.) MM

**Radio-tracking of nesting Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*).** W.B. Robertson, Jr., and D.L. Stoneburner. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:260. (26 adult radio-tagged terns fed mostly within 50 km of the colony in local areas characterized by abrupt depth changes, but feeding ranged up to 130 km away. Longer attentive periods at the nests in 1977 than in 1978 were thought to be weather-related — abstract only.) MM

**Territorial behavior by prairie pothole Blue-winged Teal.** G.R. Stewart and R.D. Titman. 1980. *Can. J. Zool.* 58:639-649. (Marked males showed strong site attachment to distinct non-overlapping areas from which they excluded other males, pairs, and caged females from time of nest selection to the third week of incubation, after which time both site attachment and intraspecific hostility dropped markedly. 97% of feeding time by marked females during laying and incubation was within their males' territories.) MM

**Helping behavior of the juvenile Eastern Bluebird.** R.M. Schutsky. 1980. *Sialia* 2:91-93. (Documents behavior of 2 banded juveniles helping to feed young at one nest.) MM

### Banding equipment and techniques

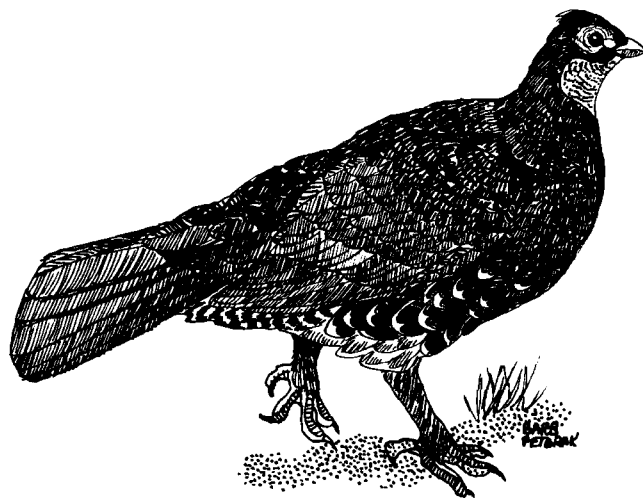
**Aspects of Yellow-crowned Night Heron reproductive behavior.** F.M. Bagley and F.A. Grau. 1979. *Proc. Colonial Waterbird Group* 3:165-175. (Young within nests were distinguished by small mammal ear tags placed on the patagium, and at fledging by color bands.) MM

### Bits 'n pieces (from American Birds)

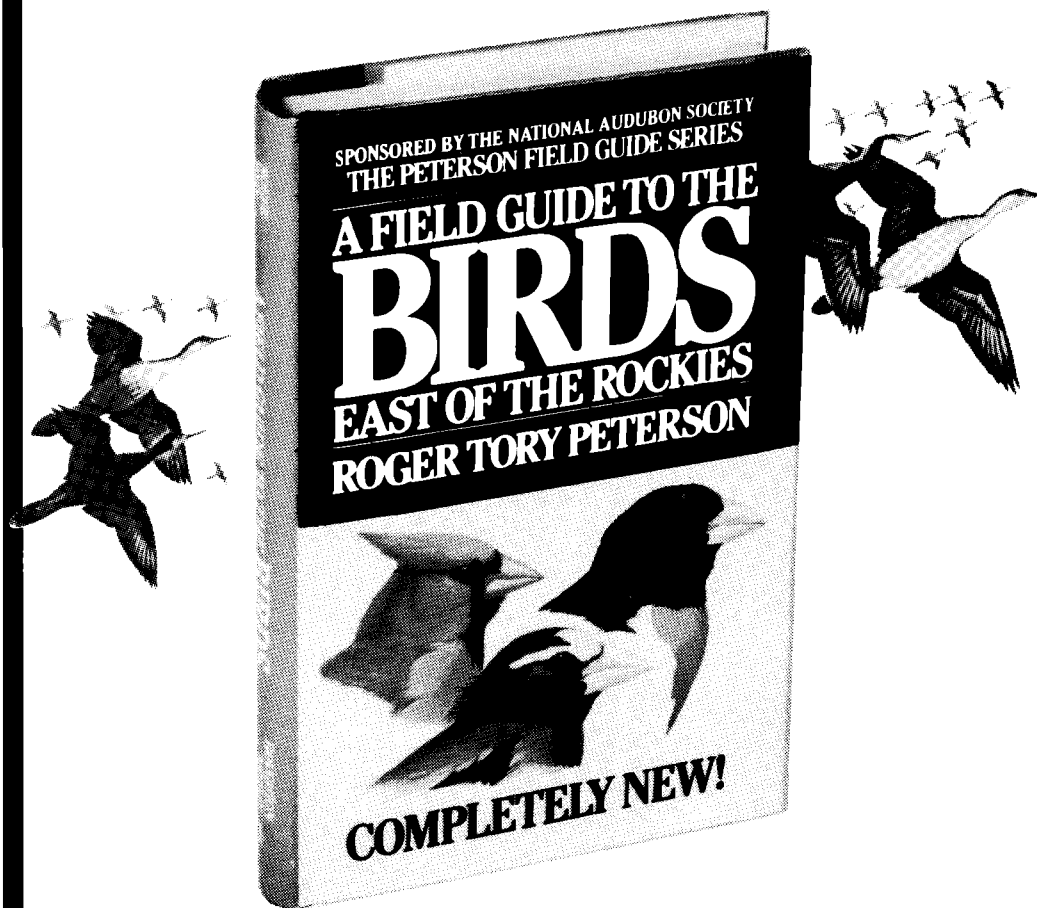
**The spring migration. March 1—May 31, 1980.** T. Lloyd Evans, J.A. Hagar, B.A. Harrington, K.D. Powers, and 34 regional editors. 1980. *Amer. Birds* 34:750-819. (A new region, covering the West Indies, was initiated with this issue. Banding activities were suspected of causing a Black-crowned Night Heron colony to move from the American Falls Reservoir, ID. At the Manomet Bird Observatory, MA, 18 of 19 species listed were up in numbers banded in 1980 compared with 1979 totals,

and numbers of Bay-breasted Warblers caught were a 5-fold increase over 1974. Observers in the Hudson-Delaware region thought that spring migrants were up, but banding totals at Island Beach, NJ in the region were only slightly above a 5-year average. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, PA, banding totals were up for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Swainson's Thrushes, Golden-crowned Kinglets, 18 warbler species, and Song and Field Sparrows, but down for Red-eyed Vireos and 12 warbler species. In contrast, Red-eyed Vireo bandings were up substantially at Morgantown, WV. Passerine migration was down in CO, where one station banded only 60% of 1979 totals, but will be envied by many banders for their 5 species of *Empidonax*. Totals considered significant for place and/or season included 18 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and 28 Eastern Wood Pewees in Ohio, 31 Swainson's Thrushes, 7 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 9 Veeries, and a late Hermit Thrush in VA, 14 Warbling Vireos in 1 day on N. Padre Is., TX, 13 Nashville Warblers at Venice, FL, 80 House Finches in Ohio, and 47 White-throated Sparrows in ND. Netting is helping to clarify the status of Flammulated Owls in NM, and indicating a possible differential migration according to sex of Purple Finches in VA. The first northbound NC (neck-collared) Whistling Swans of the spring were in MD 5 March. An immature Laughing Gull banded in NJ was recovered 5 months later in Hawaii, where all gulls are uncommon. A Hairy Woodpecker banded in SD in April 1965 was recaptured at the same site in April 1980.) MM

MM = Martin K. McNicholl



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