

1981

## News, Notes, Comments

North American Bird Bander

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# News, Notes, Comments

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## Golden Plovers

Golden Plovers on Oahu, Hawaii, have been banded as part of a study dealing with their wintering biology. Each bird wears a FWS band on one leg and one or more color bands on the other. If more than one color band was used, combinations are two of the same color, two of different colors, or three of two colors. Observers are asked to note which leg is color banded and exact sequence of colors.

Please send observations with as much information as possible to Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20811 and to Oscar W. Johnson, Dept. Biology, Moorhead State Univ., Moorhead, MN 56560.

## Snowy Plovers

Snowy Plovers have been color banded in central Kansas, north-central Oklahoma, and southeastern Colorado this summer as part of a winter ecology study to be conducted on the species along the Texas coast in January 1982. Please send information on locations where you have seen Snowy Plovers on the Texas coast in past winters to Roger L. Boyd, Dept. Biology, Baker Univ., Baldwin City, KS 66006 or Charles Chase, III, Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO 80200.

## Red-shouldered Hawks

In the spring of 1980, the Macdonald Raptor Research Centre of McGill University initiated a Red-shouldered Hawk banding and marking project in the southwestern region of Quebec to determine dispersion, migratory movements, and recruitment.

Birds are being banded with red, white, blue, and yellow (and combinations thereof) plastic bands and standard FWS bands. The Centre would appreciate any sightings of these birds. Observers are asked to note the band colors and their relative positions on the legs, as well as the location of the sighting.

Please report this information, along with your name, address, and phone number, to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20811 with a copy to Brenda Penak and David Bird, Macdonald Raptor Research Centre, Macdonald Campus of McGill University, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec H9X 1C0.

## Body weights needed

I am compiling a table of body weights for all North American species of birds. Presently, I am trying to locate data for the birds listed below, for which only a small number of weights are available. Persons with weights of more than 5 individuals for these species are asked to contact: John Dunning, Dept. of Ecology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

Glossy Ibis	Elegant Tern
White-faced Ibis	Sandwich Tern
White-tailed Kite	Caspian Tern
Swallow-tailed Kite	Black Tern
White-tailed Hawk	White-crowned Pigeon
Zone-tailed Hawk	Poorwill
Black Rail	Lucifer Hummingbird
Hudsonian Godwit	Boreal Chickadee
Marbled Godwit	Short-billed Marsh Wren
Upland Sandpiper	Bohemian Waxwing
Franklin's Gull	Colima Warbler
Little Gull	Hermit Warbler
Sabine's Gull	Black-chinned Sparrow
Least Tern	



## Hawk-fowling nets

Hawk fowling nets are now available from EBBA's Mist Net Committee. These nets are 210 d/4 nylon. See Banders' Marketplace for address.

## Barred Owls: Use of nesting boxes

I am working on a project to determine the use of nesting boxes by Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) in North America.

Please send any information — e.g. records confirmed by photos, etc. — to Don G. Follen, Sr., Route 1, Box 96, Arpin, WI 54410.

Any such records received will be acknowledged in resultant articles.

## An encounter with a Northern Gannet

One of the many interesting facets of bird banding is the establishment of longevity records. In October 1980, we received for rehabilitation a Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*), wearing band #578-34557, badly worn and partly illegible. The Bird Banding Laboratory reported that this bird was banded as a local by J.M. Poulin, near Barachois, Quebec on 10 September 1966 — over 14 years ago.

J.H. Kennard (1975, *Bird-Banding* 46:55-73) reported an age record of 16 years, 9 months for this species, so our gannet does not set a new record. However, at the time of this writing, the bird is still alive.

The BBL has no current address for Mr. Poulin, and we would be interested in any correspondence leading to more information. Please write to Betsy Jones, 325 So. First St., Surf City, NJ 08008.



## Bander's guide available again

A *Bird-Bander's Guide to Determination of Age and Sex of Selected Species*, by Merrill Wood, has been reprinted. This useful book has been updated to conform with recent published information.

The cost of the book is \$9.95; it is available from Afton Press, P.O. Box 267, Afton, MN 55001. Minnesota residents, please include 4% sales tax.

## Vulture Study Group: Americas

Michael Fry of Davis, CA and Jack Eitniear of McAllen, TX have joined forces to form an American affiliate of the Vulture Study Group of South Africa — called the Vulture Study Group: Americas.

Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact Nancy L. Karner, Treasurer, 126 Pennsylvania Ave., Bangor, PA 18013.

## Let's communicate

Local banding groups seem to be meeting a need. There are now at least 5 such groups and all are very successful. Local groups are offering a variety of programs, several meetings per year close at hand, and useful workshop material at these meetings.

There is one area where local groups can help the four regional organizations (EBBA, IBBA, NEBBA, WBBA), and a reciprocal area where those associations can help local groups. Local groups engage in local studies, and there is a considerable amount of one-to-one communication. Editors could contact such groups to encourage the writing of good papers. At the same time, regional organizations could form a closer alliance with the local groups operating in their area. The regional education committee could function in some degree to promote this closer affiliation, or a liaison committee could be set up to deal with one or more local groups. Aims of these committees may vary, but one of the most important aims should be to standardize educational effort. *Let's all work together.*

None of us knows just how long the banding program will continue to exist in its present form. Its demise may be hastened when no one publishes anything, for the surest way to communicate lack of interest in the program is by *not communicating at all*. If we can work together, we will prolong banding as such and increase the effectiveness of both the regional and local groups.

Frederick S. Schaeffer

84-55 Daniels St., 4F, Jamaica, NY 11435