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Books

North American Bird Bander

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Recent Literature

Nestling foods and foraging patterns in the Clay-colored Sparrows. R.W. Knapton. 1980. *Wilson Bull.* 92:458-465. (Mist nets were used to capture adults and immatures, and nestlings were banded at about 5 days of age. Two colored plastic bands in different combinations were used for individual recognition in this Manitoba study.) NC

Fall migration of Saw-whet Owls at Prince Edward Point, Ontario. R.D. Weir, F. Cooke, M.H. Edwards, and R.B. Stewart. 1980. *Wilson Bull.* 92:475-488. (An extensive 4-year mist netting and banding study resulted in 1128 captures. Sex and age distribution, local distribution, weather, and recaptures are discussed.) NC

The significance of deteriorating man-made island habitats to Common Terns and Ring-billed Gulls in the St. Mary's River, Michigan. W.C. Scarf. 1981. *Colonial Waterbirds* 4:155-159. (Common Tern chick production was determined by checking subsequent fledging or mortality of banded chicks.) MM

The incidence of man-caused and natural mortalities to raptors. D. Keran. 1981. *Raptor Res.* 15:108-112. (Includes a detailed analysis of band returns of all North American raptor species, with longevity data for most species, and causes of death.) MM

NC = Noel Cutright

MM = Martin K. McNicholl

Books

Diets for Birds in Captivity. Kenton C. Lint and Alice Marie Lint, published by Blandford Press, Dorset, England. 1981. 222 pages. \$50.00.

This book thoroughly describes diets used successfully to maintain, and in many cases breed in captivity, most families of birds kept at the world famous San Diego Zoo. Diets used by other zoos are also described in many cases. The information is a good basis for developing satisfactory diets for long term maintenance of wild birds in captivity. The described diets are very detailed and specific, listing gram amounts of individual food items to be fed daily. Detailed diets are presented for all families of birds.

The Lints' book is a listing of diets only, however, and does not claim to be nutritionally detailed or complete. Much is still unknown about specific nutritional requirements of many species and families of birds. The described diets are those developed by trial and error and common sense during 28 years as curator of birds at the San Diego Zoo. There is no explanation, for example, why soaked raisins can be substituted for blueberries in the diet for Thailand Hoopoes but not for Wood Hoopoes.

The described diets do not include nutritional analyses, and this will prove frustrating to nutritionists and other food scientists. One appendix does list nutritional and compositional details of many of the prepared feeds and some of the seeds listed in the diets. This appendix will enable a serious nutritionist to make analyses of

many of the complete diets. Nutritional analysis of all the dietary items are not provided and are probably not available in many cases. For example, pyracantha, cotoneaster and eugenia berries, chick weed, comfrey, sow thistle, cockroaches, garden snails, and eucalyptus seeds have probably never been analyzed for nutrient content.

Another excellent appendix describes culture methods for some of the live foods suggested, such as mealworms, fruit flies, and earthworms.

Many of the diets are unnecessarily complex for bird banders or wildlife rehabilitators. An example is the diet for gamebirds such as quail. This diet includes specific types of seeds and greens, insects, boiled egg, trout chow, and vitamins, when there are nutritionally complete commercially prepared gamebird foods available.

The book is expensive (\$50.00), considering the usefulness of the information for bird banders. The diets are generally too complicated for use in the field to maintain wild birds for short periods in captivity. A knowledge of the natural diets of the birds we band is probably sufficient to allow successful short term captive care. As a reference book, it would be of interest to banders who wish to know about the diets used to maintain in captivity those birds they handle. Wildlife rehabilitators would find the book useful as a reference for planning diets for captive birds in their programs.

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