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Recent Literature

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Recent Literature

Edited by Martin K. McNicholl

Note: The purpose of this section of NABB is to acquaint banders with literature on trapping techniques, methods of determining age and sex, plumages, and results obtained with the aid of banding operations. More complete listings of ornithological literature can be found in the quarterly supplement published jointly by the *Auk* and the *Ibis*. Readers can help make this section more complete by volunteering to abstract journals not currently covered. Several state and provincial journals need coverage, and at the moment we are lacking abstractors for *Condor*, *Ibis*, and *Western Birds*. Journals covered on a regular basis and their assigned abstractors are: *Alberta Nat.* (MM), *Amer. Birds* (MM), *Auk* (NC), *Birding* (NC), *Bird Study* (KK), *Blue Jay* (MM), *Brit. Birds* (NC), *Bull. Brit. Ornithol. Club.* (CC), *Can. Field-Nat.* (MM), *Can. J. Zool.* (MM), *Colonial Waterbirds* (MM), *Condor* (Vacant), *Ecology* (NC), *Ecol. Monographs* (NC), *Gull Study Group Bull.* (MM), *Ibis*

(Vacant), *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter* (MM), *Jack-Pine Warbler* (NC), *J. Field Ornithol.* (LD), *J. Hawk Migr. Assoc. N. A.* (MM), *J. Wildl. Manage.* (NC), *Kingbird* (NC), *Living Bird* (MM), *Loon* (NC), *Murrelet* (MM), *Ont. Bird Banding* (MM), *Ont. Field Biol.* (MM), *Passenger Pigeon* (NC), *Prairie Nat.* (MM), *Raptor Res.* (MM), *Ring and Migration* (RT), *Sialia* (MM), *Science* (NC), *Syesis* (MM), *West. Birds* (Vacant), *Wilson Bull.* (NC), *Wildl. Monographs* (NC), *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* (NC). In addition, MM covers journals (such as *Corella*, *Ring*, and *Safring*) sometimes sent to NABB and forwarded to him. Is your favorite journal missing? If so, sign up to abstract it.

CC = Charles T. Collins; NC = Noel Cutright; LD = Lawrence R. DeWeese; KK = M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz; MM = Martin K. McNicholl; RT = Robert C. Tweit.

Bibliographies and writing aids

A bibliography of Alberta ornithology. M.K. McNicholl, P.H.R. Stepney, P.C. Boxall, and D.A.E. Spalding. 1981. *Prov. Mus. Alta., Nat. Hist. Occas. Pap. No. 3.* (all known references to birds in Alberta published to the end of 1979.) MM

Banding equipment and techniques

A review of capture techniques for Eastern Bluebirds. T.W. Gutzke. 1982. *Sialia* 4:83-89. (Detailed review of hand capture, trapping and netting techniques used for bluebirds and other cavity nesting species.) MM

The "nonnac" method of netting wild birds. I. Rowley and G.S. Chapman. 1981. *Corella* 5:77-84. (Details of the design and use of a projectile device considered superior to both rocket and cannon-netting are given, with results of its application to catching flocking Galahs. Recommended mesh sizes are also given for 4 other parrot species.) MM

Non-destructive methods to determine the diets of birds. H.A. Ford, N. Forde, and S. Harrington. 1982. *Corella* 6:6-10. (A review of methods by which foods of living birds can be examined, especially applicable to birds caught for banding. Emetics are discussed briefly, but stomach flushing is discussed in greater detail.) MM

Solution found for erecting net poles. G. Lasley. 1982. *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter* 4(3):1. (Use of a large chisel to make holes in ground prior to erection of poles.) MM

Identification, molts, and plumages

In detail. Acorn Woodpecker. M. Sanders. 1979. *Continental Birdlife* 1:43. (Adult females have black bar between white forecrown and red crown, a feature lacking in adult males and in juvenals of both sexes.) MM

Plumage development as an aging technique in juvenile California Quail. H. Barclay. 1981. *Murrelet* 62: 59-60. (Lengths of 3 primaries of captive-raised birds at various ages are given as an aid to determine age of quail chicks. Measurements on recaptured, banded wild birds were consistent with data from these captives.) MM

Discriminant functions for sexing Woodhens. P.J. Fulagar and H.J. de S. Disney. 1981. *Corella* 5:106-109. (A discriminant function based on culmen and tarsal length can be used to sex museum specimens of this rare rail with 90% accuracy, and limited data from color-banded birds indicate that a modification of it can be used on live birds.) MM

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Measurements, weights and seasonal variation of the Mangrove Honeyeater in south-east Queensland. J.S. Robertson and P.F. Woodall. 1982. *Corella* 6:1-5. (Measurements showed significant differences between sexes in wing, tail and culmen lengths, and in weights, which in combination allow determination of sex at probability levels of 70-80%. Mean weights did not vary over the year.) MM

Field identification of Hutton's Vireo. K. Kaufman. 1979. *Continental Birdlife* 1:62-66. (Detailed review of useful field marks and behavior, especially in comparison with Ruby-crowned Kinglet.) MM

The double identity of the Western Grebe. K.K[uffman]. 1979. *Continental Birdlife* 1:85-89. (Review of identification features between dark phase and light phase Western Grebes, the latter of which is considered by some authorities to constitute a separate species, Clark's Grebe.) MM

Identifying "Myrtle" and "Audubon's" warblers out of breeding plumage. K. Kaufman. 1979. *Continental Birdlife* 89-92. (Detailed review of identification features of these two races of the Yellow-rumped Warbler.) MM

Pinning down the blue Ross'. The editors [Kaufman, K., J. Witzeman, and E. Cook.] 1979. *Continental Birdlife* 1:112-115. (Discussion of probable identifying features between blue phase Snow Geese, blue phase Ross' Geese, and possible hybrids.) MM

North American banding results

Post-fledging behavior of Purple Martins. C.R. Brown. 1978. *Wilson Bull.* 90:376-385. (Each of 41 broods were banded with standard aluminum bands painted distinctive colors; each brood had its own color code.) NC

Leech parasitism of Trumpeter Swans in Alaska. E.E. Bangs, V.D. Berns, and T.N. Bailey. 1981. *Murrelet* 62: 24-26. (Leech infections found on both Trumpeter and Whistling Swans during banding operations.) MM

Natural history of the Caspian Tern in Grays Harbor, Washington. S. Penland. 1981. *Murrelet* 62:66-72. (Eight of 1338 banded terns were recovered, 3 in Wash., 1 in Calif., and 4 in Mex.; these recoveries are consistent with those from San Francisco Bay, Calif. colonies.) MM

Birds banded while feeding on spilled rice. V. Moss. 1982. *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter* 4(3):2. (Includes a

recovery of a Missouri-banded Common Grackle in North Dakota.) MM

Another short-short recovery reported. K.E. Bartel. 1982. *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter* 4(3):2. (Female Red-winged Blackbird fell dead out of tree ½ mile from banding site.) MM

A time-activity budget for breeding Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in Manitoba. R.D. Titman. 1981. *Can. Field-Nat.* 95:266-271. (Data from 14 breeding Mallards marked with plastic nasal saddles showed that most of their time was spent at one or two locations within their territories. Time spent in foraging, aggression and various maintenance activities is documented, showing that females spend more time foraging than males, both before and during nesting.) MM

Seasonal and daily use of plant communities by Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*) in the parklands of Alberta. D.L.J. Moyles. 1981. *Can. Field-Nat.* 95:287-291. (Locations of male grouse were determined, in part, by following individuals tagged with radio transmitters.) MM

Breeding, feeding, and chick growth of the Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) in southern Quebec. D. Cairnes. 1981. *Can. Field-Nat.* 95:312-318. (Banded chicks were found to spend 34 to 39 days in the nest and fledge at 88% of adult weight. Four banded young were returned from the St. Lawrence estuary in the fall after hatching, indicating the initial area to which chicks from this colony disperse. Banded adults showed significant individual differences in prey brought to young, indicating individual preference in prey and/or feeding area.) MM

Lapland Longspurs banded in Iowa. G. DeLong. 1982. *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter* 4(1):2. (Five banded in Nov. 1981 in a state where only 2 had been banded previously since 1970.) MM

Thirty-third winter bird-population study. 87. Urban mobile home parks. J.C. Tweit and R.C. Tweit. 1981. *Amer. Birds* 35:44. (Banding showed that House Finches fed throughout the study area, whereas Inca Doves remained on smaller territories.) MM

Forty-fourth breeding bird census. 181. Coastal scrub. T. Theimer, D. DeSante, M. Bonoff, K. Keane, and D. Sherman. 1981. *Amer. Birds* 35:93-94. (Data on color-banded birds indicated an unusually high winter mortal-

ity of permanent resident species in this Point Reyes, Calif. study area.) MM

Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station tenth annual report: 1980. D. and S. Fowler. 1982. *Ont. Bird Banding* 14(2):3-14; Foreign recoveries, foreign retraps, returns & repeats. *Ont. Bird Banding* 14(2):15-20. (In spite of technical problems concerning permits and curtailment of road trapping efforts because of increased fuel costs, the Hawk Cliff, Ont. station had another productive year. Tables show numbers of raptors and shrikes observed and banded by year and season, and results for 1980 of an American Kestrel nest box program. The second paper tabulates details of foreign recoveries and returns and briefly summarizes repeats.) MM

Cooper's Hawks banded at Hawk Cliff, Ontario: 1971-1980. B.W. Duncan. 1982. *Ont. Bird Banding* 14(2): 21-32. (From 1971 to 1980, 960 Cooper's Hawks were banded at Hawk Cliff, with 23 recoveries to date. HY birds migrate earlier than AHY, with females in any age class generally preceding males. More HY birds are trapped than AHY, and more males than females, but a greater proportion of females are recovered.) MM

Canadian Wildlife Service bird banding. S. Wendt. 1982. *Can. Wildl. Admin.* June 1982:9-12. (Summary of bird banding in Canada, with emphasis on unevenness of banding effort by species and geographic area.) MM

Ontario Ornithological Records Committee report for 1981. R.D. James. 1982. *Ont. Field Biol.* 36:16-18. (Gray Flycatcher was added to the provincial list on the basis of one netted, measured and photographed.) MM

Whooping Crane progress report. E. Kuyt. 1982. *Alberta Nat.* 12:124-125. (Progress of Whooping Cranes hatched in Wood Buffalo Natl. Park, Alta.-N.W.T. to their Tex. wintering grounds in 1981 was monitored in part by radio transmitters.) MM

Foreign banding results

Goshawk winter ecology in Swedish pheasant habitats. R.E. Kenward, V. Marcstrom, and M. Karlbom. 1981. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 45:397-408. (Live domestic pigeons were used in "spring-roof," "falling-lid," and "Nyborg" traps, and Goshawks captured were radio-tagged.) NC

Observations of breeding success in the White-faced Storm-Petrel at a newly established colony. N.P.

Brothers. 1981. *Corella* 5:29-33. (Banding showed less burrow site-tenacity and less mate fidelity than previous studies in New Zealand.) MM

A colour-banding study of Welcome Swallows breeding in southern Tasmania. P.Park. 1981. *Corella* 5:37-41. (Of 213 nestlings, only one returned to the breeding area. Of seven original pairs in this 5-year study, only one male remained at the end. When both pair partners returned, they remained as a breeding pair.) MM

Seabird islands. Nos. 102-112. I. Abbott, J.N. Dunlop, N. Kolichis, B.I. Robertson, G.T. Smith, G.M. Storr, and G. White. 1981. *Corella* 5:49-76. (The latest numbers in these excellent accounts of Australian islands include 4 off the coast of Tasmania and 7 off Western Australia. Banding and retrap data indicate a population of 35,000 White-faced Storm-Petrels breeding on Chalky Islands, Furneaux Group, Tasmania. Crested Terns which were color-banded on one group of islands were later found breeding elsewhere. Other recoveries reported are of Little Penguin, White-faced Storm Petrel, and Pacific Gull, and other species banded were Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Pied Cormorant, Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, and Silver Gull.) MM

Results from a nesting study of Welcome Swallows in southern Tasmania. P. Park. 1981. *Corella* 5:85-90. (Development of young and behavioral data were determined on color-banded birds. One male mated with 3 separate females in one season.) MM

Additional visits to islands off Wilson's Promontory, Victoria. S.G. Lane and H. Battam. 1981. *Corella* 5:91-94. (Several seabird species were banded on 6 poorly-known islands in Australia.) MM

Banding the Chestnut Quail-Thrush. E.F. Boehm. 1981. *Corella* 5:95-96. (Results of a 16 year study of a little-known species include recovery rates, with one bird recovered 8-9 years after banding, and adult weights of each sex.) MM

The attack and strike behaviour of the Brown Goshawk. S.J. Debus. 1981. *Corella* 5:116. (Observations of attack behavior at a bal-chatri trap.) MM



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Food of the Mistletoebird near Pumicestone Passage, south-eastern Queensland. J. Liddy. 1982. *Corella* 6: 11-15. (Fruits voided when netted by 92 birds of this Australian flowerpecker over a 3-year period.) MM

Results from banding Brown Treecreepers. E. F. Boehm. 1982. *Corella* 6:16-17. (15 year study of *Climacteris picumnus* in South Australia, including data on longevity (up to 11-12 years), population fluctuations, and slight sexual differences in weights [males range higher, but there is considerable overlap.]) MM

A hybrid wader? S.G. Lane, F.W.C. Van Gessel, and C.D.T. Minton. 1981. *Corella* 5:114-115. Correction 1982. *Corella* 6:18. (A sandpiper caught during a banding expedition in Australia appeared to be a hybrid Sharp-tailed x Curlew. The original article mistakenly printed a photograph of a Sharp-tailed; the correction contains a photograph of the apparent hybrid.) MM

Local winter movements of Herring Gulls in north-east England. N. Aebisher. 1982. *Gull Study Group Bull.* No. 4:23-24. (Seasonal patterns of movements between garbage dumps were shown through sightings of color-banded gulls. Abstract only.) MM

Individual differences in aspects of the breeding biology of female Kittiwake Gulls, *Rissa tridactylea*. C.S. Thomas. 1982. *Gull Study Group Bull.* No. 4:25. (Long-term studies of color-marked known-age birds showed that individual differences in various aspects of breeding biology were maintained from year to year. Abstract only.) MM

Additions to the birds of Suriname. T.H. Davis. 1979. *Continental Birdlife* 7:136-146. (Five Roseate Terns banded in Mass. have been recovered in Suriname, as compared with 200 recoveries in nearby Guyana, and only 1 in French Guiana. A Little Egret banded as a nestling in Spain was shot almost a year later in Suriname.) MM

Some biometrics of Common Crossbills from Ae Forest, Dumfriesshire. M. Marquiss. 1980. *Ring and Migration* 3:35-36. (Wing lengths, bill sizes, and weights were determined for male, female, and juvenile Red Crossbills [*Loxia curvirostra*].) RT

Variations in mortality rates of juvenile Swift Terns *Sterna bergii* in southern Africa. J. Cooper. 1982. *Safring News* 77:16-17. (61 within-year recoveries of 7164 chicks banded in 5 years indicate that mortality rates cannot be assumed constant between years.) MM

Longevity from retraps. A.J. Mason. 1982. *Safring News* 11:27-33. (Longevity records for 32 species in Zimbabwe.) MM

The oldest passerine. T.B. Oatley. 1982. *Safring News* 11:21. (Supporting details for an earlier claim of a 26-year old color-banded Chorister Robin.) MM

Autumn migration of small passerines on Schiermonnikoos (Dutch Waddenzee). E. Nieboer and J.E. Winkelman. 1980. *Ring* 9:156-159. (Preliminary data on Willow Warblers, Pied Flycatchers, European Robins and Goldcrests netted in late summer and autumn on an island from 1969 to 1977, with summary statements, but no quantitative data on daily numbers caught, condition of birds, and measurements.) MM

Ten years of Czechoslovak Wader Study Group. V. Hajek. 1980. *Ring* 9:164-169. (17,086 shorebirds of 33 species were banded in Czechoslovakia from 1970 to 1979, with 29 foreign retraps and 220 recoveries elsewhere. Birds are caught in mist nets and traps baited with *Tenebrio* larvae.) MM

The hole-nesting programme of the Braunschweig Research Station for Population Ecology, Institute "Vogelwarte Helgoland." R. Berndt and W. Winkel. 1981. *Ring* 9:195-200. (Since 1947, 3 to 30 nest boxes per acre have been established on a 600+ ha area in Saxony, Fed. Republic of Germany. 422,731 birds of 12 species of passerines plus the Wryneck have been banded, ranging from 808 Willow Tits to 143,318 Pied Flycatchers. Recapture rate is said to be 30%, but without details.) MM



Announcement

Osborn, R., & T. Custer. 1978. "Hérons and Their Allies: Atlas of Atlantic Coast Colonies, 1975 and 1976" is available free of charge from the Information Transfer Specialist, National Coastal Ecosystems Team, 1010 Gause Boulevard, Slidell, LA 70458. A list of other NCET publications is available upon request.

Birds of Regina. Revised edition. Margaret Belcher. Special Publication No. 12, Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Regina, Sask. (Box 1121, Regina, Sask. S4P 3B4 Canada). 1980. 151 pp. \$5.00 Canadian.

The twelfth special publication of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society is the first revision in the series. This is a complete update, expanded almost doubly from the 76-page 1961 edition (No. 3 in the series), and covering 295 species positively identified within a 48 km (30 mile) radius of Regina (cf. 268 in 1961).

The contents of the species accounts concentrate primarily on distributional and chronological data on the 295 species (plus 4 hybrid forms). Banders will be pleased to note that several readily identified races, which would have to be distinguished on banding schedules, are discussed specifically. Regretably, however, this was not done for Palm Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, or White-crowned Sparrow. I have observed two races of both the Palm Warbler and White-crowned Sparrow in Winnipeg. Therefore, information on well-marked races of these species in Saskatchewan (between Alberta and Manitoba) is of considerable interest biogeographically.

Specific information on banding is included for several species. Admirable totals include 50 young American Avocets banded in 9 days, and 84 young Common Terns banded in 1977. A recovery of a Western Grebe in British Columbia more than a year after release proved that a rehabilitation attempt on 6 grebes damaged by detergents was at least partially successful. A Double-crested Cormorant banded at Last Mountain Lake, north of Regina, was struck by a truck in Regina the same year. Recoveries and returns of Canada Geese show that some raised in Regina return there to breed, but others breed elsewhere. Recoveries of this species are listed from several states and examples of longevity are included. Mallards banded at Regina have been recovered in all 3 prairie provinces and in 13 states; 36.3% of male Mallards banded in Regina have returned there, whereas only 14.5% of females have returned.

This is an excellent addition to the bird literature of western North America and should be in the libraries of all ornithologists in the prairie states and provinces.

Fifty common birds of Oklahoma and the southern great plains. George Miksch Sutton. (1977). Reprinted

in paper 1981. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. xii + 113 pp. \$6.95 paper, \$8.95 hard cover.

Sutton's latest book is an introduction for lay people to the common birds of Oklahoma. The book consists of a 5-page foreword, followed by the 50 selected species, and a complete list of the birds of the state. Each of the 50 species is allotted a page of text facing a color plate by the author/artist. Although each page is ostensibly about the bird on the facing plate, the text often rambles through habits of similar species and/or species with which the species under discussion often associates, and the 2 meadowlarks are treated together. The state list is completely up to date in terms of nomenclature, and thus presumably also status.

In his foreword, Sutton sets the style of the book, with a folksy, rambling account of how the 50 came to be chosen and various others were not. The text of each species continues in the same folksy manner, generally emphasizing behavioral or natural history traits with little emphasis on description, although this is by no means excluded. Oklahoma details are appropriately emphasized, but Sutton also draws on his vast experience in Pennsylvania, Mexico, arctic Canada, and elsewhere, as well as experiences of friends and colleagues. Thus, the book is not a place to look for particular facts, but even seasoned observers are likely to find many tidbits of information new to them.

Sutton is a bander and his anecdotes include a number of experiences with banding, such as the hazards of removing a shrike from a net and a night of banding Red-winged Blackbirds at a night roost, catching them with nets and by hand, while owls and a fox took advantage of the commotion to catch some prey. The danger to young birds caused by banding them too close to fledging age has been emphasized by many authors, but the prematurely fledged Eastern Phoebe that was almost caught by a frog must be close to unique. Interesting returns and recoveries are reported for Mourning Doves, Chimney Swifts (caught in a well), and a Field Sparrow that returned to V.J. Vacin's yard for 6 years. Banding also helped Sutton establish double-broodedness at a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nest.

Although it is intended primarily for interested lay people, there is much in this little book to interest experienced naturalists — and the price makes it a very affordable way to acquire copies of 50 paintings by one of North America's leading contemporary bird artists!