

1985

## Recent Literature

North American Bird Bander

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## North American Banding Results

**Aggressive and territorial behaviour in female Red-winged Blackbirds.** T. A. Hurly and R. J. Robertson. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:148-153.- Dept. of Biol., Queen's Univ., Kingston, Ont. K7L 3N6 - (Color-banded females interacted aggressively with both intruding females and females in the harem of their mates. Females defended sub-territories within the male's territory, and evidently recognized the boundaries of the male's territory.) MKM

**Vestigial wing claws on Great Gray Owls, *Strix nebulosa*.** R. W. Nero and S. J. Loch. 1984. *Can. Field-Nat.* 94:45-46.- Man. Wildl. Branch, 1495 St. James St., Winnipeg, Man. R3H 0W9.- (Nine adult [18% of 50] and 6 imm. [17% of 35] owls examined, mostly during banding operations, showed vestigial wing claws on digit II, with a few also on digit III.) MKM

**Comparisons of Killdeers, *Charadrius vociferus*, breeding in mainland and peninsular sites in southern Ontario.** E. Nol and A. Lambert. 1984. *Can. Field-Nat.* 98:7-11.- Dept. of Zool., Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C.- (25 adults were caught in walk-in traps and monofilament nooses. All but one of 12 banded birds laid replacement clutches after loss of the first clutch or laid second clutches after successful hatching of the first.) MKM

**Nestling feeding rates and body size of adult House Sparrows.** W. B. McGillivray. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:381-385. (Studies at nests in Calgary, Alberta, including some banded birds, showed that males contribute proportionately less to feeding of nestlings there than at other locations. This result may be related to larger body size of males there, requiring more food for the adult bird.) MKM

**Yellow-headed Blackbird ten years old.** D. Blockstein. 1984. *Inland Bird Banding Assoc. Newsletter* 6(3):1.- James Ford Bell Mus. of Nat. Hist., Univ. Minn., Minneapolis, MN 55455.- (26% of males banded in N. D. in 1982 returned in 1983, as did 22% of the females. Two 4+ year-old birds were recovered, and one 10-year old.) MKM

**Finches abundant in Baldwin City.** K. B. Kelley. 1984. *Inland Bird Banding Assoc. Newsletter* 6(3):2.- 911 Dearborn, Box 43, Baldwin city, KS 66006.- (Kansas-banded Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Dark-eyed Juncos and American Goldfinches have been recovered in the Dakotas, Minn. and other parts of KS.) MKM

**Giefer nets hardy old bird.** J. Giefer. 1984 *Inland Bird Banding Assoc. Newsletter* 6(3):5.- 1101 Sibley Highway #613, Lilydale, Minn. 55118.- (1984 return of Black-capped Chickadee banded in 1977 in Minn.) MKM

**Daily feeding site use of urban pigeons.** L. Lefebvre and L. A. Giraldeau. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:1425-1428.- Dept. Biol., McGill Univ., 1205 Ave. Docteur Penfield, Montreal, Que. H3A 1B1.- (Color-marked birds showed marked individual differences in daily feeding schedules of birds that otherwise shared common feeding areas in downtown Montreal.) MKM

**Morphology and territory acquisition in Willow Ptarmigan.** S. J. Hannon and J. Roland. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:1502-1506.- Dept. Zool, Univ. Alberta, Edmonton. Alta. T6G 2E9.- (Yearlings of both sexes, many of which were color-banded, did not differ in body size or comb height (a feature known to correlate with hormonal state and aggression) between those holding territories and those that did not. Early female replacements after removals were similar in condition to residents, but male replacements were in poorer condition.) MKM

**Density, movements, and breeding success of female Blue Grouse in an area of reduced male density.** R. A. Lewis. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:1556-1560.- Dept. of Zool., Univ. Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E9.- (Observations of color-banded and some radiotagged hens in B. C. on an area in which 75% of males were removed compared with an unmanipulated control area showed that female density, recruitment of hens, daily movements of hens and time of breeding were unaffected by density of males. Home ranges of females from areas of reduced male density appeared to be larger than those of control areas, but the sample was too small to show statistical significance in this impression.) MKM

**State report/Nebraska. The status of raptors and their management in Nebraska.** R. A. Lock. 1984. *Eyas* 7(2):10-14.- no address given.- (Of 82 nestling Golden Eagles banded, 9 have been recovered, one within 3 miles of the hatching site, 6 within 50 miles, another 310 miles away in KS, and another in Texas. Of 295 Prairie Falcon nestlings banded, only 1 has been recovered - in Okla. Over 100 Common Barn-Owl nestlings were banded in 3 years.) MKM

**An assessment of possible intraspecific brood parasitism in Ring-billed Gulls.** P. M. Fetterolf and H. Blokpoel. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:1680-1684.- Dept. Zool., Univ. Toronto, Toronto, Ont. M5S 1A1.- (Egg dimensions and shape were found to vary more in mixed-colored clutches than in even-colored clutches, and the fertility was lower and atypical egg-laying intervals more frequent in the former. Variance in egg dimensions from banded females was less between years than that between different banded females in one year, suggesting that intraspecific parasitism may be responsible for mixed-color clutches.) MKM

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# Recent Literature

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**Migration of Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: a worldwide overview.** J. G. Greenwood. 1984. *Ring & Migr.* 4:35-39. Science Dept., Stranmillis College, Belfast BT9 5DY, U. K. (Banding recoveries have been used to determine winter quarters of the different breeding populations of Dunlin. In the Western Hemisphere, western Alaskan birds winter on the North American Pacific coast, Arctic Canadian birds on the North American Atlantic coast, and northern Alaskan birds on the Asian Pacific coast.) RCT

## Foreign Banding Results

**Feeding behavior and diet of the White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae* in Westport Bay, Victoria.** K. W. Lowe. 1983. *Corella* 7:101-108. Dept. Zool., Univ. Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia 3052. (Information on diet included food regurgitated by two nestlings while being banded. A heron color-banded as a nestling was resighted as an adult feeding in its natal area several times, indicating that this species may be less nomadic than previously believed, but its feeding site changed frequently, with no suggestion of a permanent feeding territory.) MKM

**The mortality of British Grey Herons.** C. J. Mead, P. M. North, and B. R. Watmough. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:13-22. Brit. Trust Ornithol., Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NR U.K. (Grey Heron mortality was estimated for 3 time periods: 1909-1941, 1942-1954, and 1955-1977. In the first time period, 1st year mortality was 69.7%, 2nd year mortality was 30.9%, and mortality beyond 2 years was 24.7%. For the period 1955-1977, corresponding figures were 55.9%, 46.9%, and 30.3%. The decrease in 1st year mortality coincided with legal protection in 1954, while increase in 2nd year and older mortality was attributed to increased use of pesticides.) MK

**Relating Grey Heron survival rates to winter weather conditions.** P. M. North. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:23-28. Math. Inst., Cornwallis Bldg., The University, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NF. (Survivorship of 1st year Grey Herons is affected by weather more than that of older age classes.) MK

**Turnstone populations on the Wash.** N. J. Branson, E. D. Ponting, and C. D. Minton. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:47-54. Trinity College, Cambridge, U. K. (Ruddy Turnstones occurring in the Norfolk/Lincolnshire area of Britain in autumn originate in 2 separate breeding populations, one in Finland, the other in northeastern Canada and Greenland. Many fall adults captured in Britain can be attributed to one or other breeding population on the basis of molt and weight.) MK

**Sand Martin movements within Britain and Ireland.** C. J. Mead and J. D. Harrison. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:73-86. Brit. Trust Ornithol., Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NR U.K. (Sand Martin [Bank Swallow] recoveries of birds banded in Britain and Ireland show that after the breeding season juveniles explore a wide area around the natal colony for several weeks before beginning fall migration. First year birds return to the breeding grounds 2 or 3 weeks later than older, more experienced birds.) MK

**Overseas movements of British and Irish Sand Martins.** C. J. Mead and J. D. Harrison. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:87-98. Brit. Trust Ornithol., Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NR U.K. (Sand Martins [Bank Swallows] from the same areas, and often the same breeding colonies, in Britain remain associated during fall migration and on wintering grounds.) MK

**Mortality and causes of death in British Sand Martins.** C. J. Mead. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:107-112. Brit. Trust Ornithol., Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NR U.K. (First summer British Sand Martins [Bank Swallows] experience more accidental deaths than older birds. Mortality for 1st year birds is 77%, while mean adult mortality is 65%. Most mortality occurs outside the breeding range.) MK

**Colony fidelity and interchange in the Sand Martin.** C. J. Mead. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:99-106. Brit. Trust Ornithol., Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NR U.K. (Most Sand Martins [Bank Swallows] breeding in colonies located within a few km of the natal site. However, deterioration of nest sites forces birds to relocate, with longest displacements made by 1st year and female birds.) MK

**Movements of Blackcaps ringed in Britain and Ireland.** D. R. Langslow. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:239-252. Nature Conservatory Council, Box 6, Godwin House, George St., Huntingdon PE18 6BU U.K. (Blackcaps which breed in Britain leave the nesting grounds by the end of Sept., and those which winter in Britain originate from populations breeding in continental Europe.) MK

**Longevity in weaver birds.** H. T. Laycock and D. B. Hanmer. 1981. *Safring News* 10:6-9. (State-of-the-art report on known longevity of 14 weaver species in South Africa.) MKM

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## Banding History and Biography

**A history of bird banding in the Ottawa area.** S. Wendt. 1983. *Ont. Bird Banding* 16(1):24-29.- Can. Wildl. Serv., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0E7 - (Summary of recoveries from birds banded before 1955, followed by efforts and results since 1955, with a discussion of the possibilities of increasing recovery rates.) MM

## Banding Equipment and Techniques

**A simple extensible mistnet pole.** P. le S. Milstein. 1983. *Safring News* 12:44-45.- 60 King St., Irene, South Africa 1675.- (Design for hollow aluminum poles fitted with an extension sleeve that provides a 40% length increase.) MM

**Marking and observing Helmeted Guineafowl in the Krugersdorp Game Reserve.** J. H. Van Niekerk. 1983. *Safring News* 12:48-53.- 18 Lovedale Ave., Silverfields, Krugersdorp, South Africa 1740.- (Most marking material used on 110 guinea fowl lasted at least 15 months, after which patagial tags tended to split, become detached or fade. Metal and color bands showed no damage, but tended to wear the scales of the birds' legs. Problems in handling the birds and visibility of markings under various conditions are discussed, and individual differences in casque and skin markings are noted.) MM

**The price of success in Goshawk trapping.** R. E. Kenward, M. Karlbom, and V. Marcström. 1983. *Raptor Res.* 17:84-91.- Inst. of Zoophysiology, Box 560, S-751 22 Uppsala, Sweden.- (A detailed comparison of success rate, portability, and expense of 3 live-bait traps and one baited with a hawk's kill, with advantages and disadvantages of each under various conditions. Only one of these traps has apparently been described in English previously.) MM

## Identification, molts, and plumages

**Further comment on bill pigmentation in the Woodland Kingfisher.** P. Le S. Milstein. 1983. *Safring News* 12:53-56.- Transvaal Conservation Division, Private Bag X209, Pretoria 0001, South Africa.- (On aberrant bill pigmentation and individual differences in rate of age-related changes in pigmentation.) MM

## Banding Equipment and Techniques

**Ring loss from Canada Geese.** C. B. Thomas. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:270-271.- Dept. of Chemistry, Univ. of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD, U. K.- (2243 geese were banded with an aluminum band on one leg and an engraved plastic band on the other. Rate of loss was 2.3% per year for aluminum bands and 1.7% for plastic bands.) MK

## Identification, Plumages, Moults, Weights, and Measurements

**Seasonal changes in body weight and composition of Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).** E. H. McEwan and P. M. Whitehead. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:154-156.- Can. Wildl. Serv., Box 340, Delta, B. C. V5K 3Y3.- (Mean body weights of both sexes are highest in Dec., declining by April to Nov. levels. Weight changes show a slight relationship with fat levels.) MKM

**The suspension of moult by trans-Saharan migrants in Crete.** R. L. Swann and S. R. Baillie. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:55-58.- 14 St. Drostan, Drumadrochit, Inverness-shire, U. K.- (Autumn trans-Saharan migrants captured in Crete showed a greater incidence of suspended molt than did migrants captured in Iberia. The authors suggest that this difference results from the fact that migrants passing through Crete breed in eastern Europe, where they have less time for molt after breeding before the beginning of fall migration.) MK

**Seasonal and migrational weight changes in Dunlins.** M. W. Pienkowski, C. S. Lloyd, and C. D. Minton. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:134-148.- Dept. of Zool., Univ. of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, U. K.- (In eastern Britain, Dunlin weights peak in Dec., whereas no such winter peak occurs in birds wintering in southwestern Britain.) MK

**Measurements and weights of British Puffins.** M. P. Harris. 1979. *Bird Study* 26:179-186.- Inst. of Terrestrial Ecol., Hill of Brathens, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB3 4BY, Scotland.- (Measurements of Atlantic Puffins are given from 2 Scottish colonies. Puffins continue to grow for several years after fledging, and marked size difference were found between populations breeding in eastern and western Britain.) MK

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**How to distinguish first-year murre, *Uria* spp., from older birds in winter.** A. J. Gaston. 1984. *Can. Field-Nat.* 98:52-55. - Can. Wildl. Serv., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0E7. - (A scatter plot of bill depth against nostril length correctly predicted age of 30 out of 32 specimens of Thick-billed Murres collected in Dec. The presence of well developed supra-orbital ridges appears to safely identify both Common and Thick-billed Murres as adults.) MKM

**Weights of Ontario Spruce Grouse by sex, age, and breeding success.** K. J. Szuba and J. F. Bendell. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:788-792. - Faculty of Forestry, Univ. Toronto, 203 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5S 1A1. - (Spruce Grouse in Ont. weighed less than elsewhere, but show the same general trends of lowest weight in spring and highest in winter. Adult hens gain weight earlier after their chicks hatch than do yearling hens.) MKM

**Biometrics and colour forms of chicks of Common Terns and Arctic Terns.** J. C. A. Craik and S. M. Harvey. 1984. *Ring. & Migr.* 5:40-48. - Scottish Marine Biol. Assoc., Dunstaffnage Marine Res. Lab., Box 3, Oban, Argyll, U.K. - (Chicks can be distinguished by dorsal and belly down color when small, and by tarsal length when larger. Gray chicks are always Arctic Terns, and they have dark bellies.) RCT

MK = Mike Kowalski; MKM = Martin K. McNicholl;  
RCT = Robert C. Tweit

## North American Bluebird Society Research Grant Awards

**T**he North American Bluebird Society is proud to announce the presentation of the second annual research grant awards. The 1985 recipients are as follows:

**Bluebird Grant** - Patrick J. Mock

Topic: Reproductive Energetics in Relation to Brood Size in Western Bluebirds.

**General Grant** - Gregg M. Zuberbier

Topic: The Physiological Effects of *Protocalliphora* sp. Larvae on Nestling Growth.

**Student Grant** - Monica J. Schwalbach

Topic: Site Selection in the Eastern Bluebird.

The North American Bluebird Society annually provides research grants in aid for ornithological research directed toward cavity nesting species of North America with an emphasis on the genus *Sialia*. Information and application materials are available from Theodore W. Gutzke, Research Committee Chairman, P.O. Box 121, Kenmare, North Dakota 58746.

**T**he North American Bluebird Society announces the third annual grants in aid for ornithological research directed toward cavity nesting species of North America with emphasis on the genus *Sialia*. Presently three annual grants of single or multiple awards totalling \$3,000.00 are awarded and include:

**Bluebird Research Grant** - Available to student, professional or individual researchers for a suitable research project focused on any of the three species of bluebird from the genus *Sialia*.

**General Research Grant** - Available to student, professional and individual researchers for a suitable research project focused on a North American cavity nesting species.

**Student Research Grant** - Available to full-time college or university students for a suitable research project focused on a North American cavity nesting species.

Further guidelines and application materials are available upon request from Theodore W. Gutzke, Research Committee Chairman, P.O. Box 121, Kenmare, North Dakota 58746. Completed applications must be received by January 31, 1986; decisions will be announced by March 15, 1986.