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Recent Literature

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Recent Literature

Bibliographies and Writing Aids

A bibliography on the technical literature of the bluebird genus *Sialia*. T. W. Gutzke. 1985. North Amer. Bluebird Soc. Res. Ser. No. 1. i + 29 pp. -Available from NABS, Box 6295, Silver Spring, MD 20906 for \$2.50. - (Covers most technical literature to 1983, but omits most annual bluebird trail reports, including those in technical journals. The author states that most popular magazine and local newspaper reports are not included, but several titles from popular magazines do appear. Although not complete, this is a valuable compilation.) MKM

Banding History and Biography

Stuart Houston . . . bander-extraordinary. G. Bennett. 1985. *Birdfinding in Canada* 5(4):17. -Box 519, Kleinburg, Ont. L0J 1C0 - (A Varied Thrush became Houston's 200th species banded in Sask., with 87,056 individuals banded from 1943 to 1984 inclusive.) MKM

Banding Equipment and Techniques

Colour-ringing Pale Chanting Goshawks. H. C. Biggs and R. Biggs. 1984. *Safring News* 13:51-55. -Box 20120, Windhoek, South West Africa/Namibia - (Detailed description of techniques, with evaluation of problems, ease of sightings and comparison with other methods.) MKM

Errors in measurement. L. G. Underhill. 1985. *Safring News* 14:87-90. -Dept. of Mathematical Statistics, Univ. of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa - (In response to an exchange of letters, Underhill reviews accuracy possible in measurement, factors contributing to inaccuracy, and the accuracy level at which measurements should be reported.) MKM

Banding Equipment and Techniques

Some results from the use of a long life radio transmitter package on corvids. P. Green. 1985. *Ring. & Migr.* 6:45-51. -Zool. Dept., Edinburgh Univ., W. Mains Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JT, U.K. - (Two packages are described, one with a mean actual life of 7 days on Rooks, the other with a potential 350-day life. Rooks broke the antenna on the first package.) RCT

The influence of coloured rings on the recovery rates of Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. C. B. Sheddon, P. Monaghan, K. Ensor and N. B. Metcalf. 1985. *Ring. & Migr.* 6:52-54. -Zool. Dept., Glasgow Univ., Glasgow G12 8QQ, Scotland, - (Color-banded birds are twice as likely to be recovered as those with only metal bands.) RCT

Ageing and sexing guide. South African Cliff Swallow. R. Earle. 1985. *Safring News* 14:48. -Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein, 9300, South Africa. - (Based on brood patch, measurements, plumage and gape.) MKM

Sexing Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Polioptila caerulea*). K. C. Parkes. 1985. *Ont. Birds* 3:104-106. -Sect. of Birds, Carnegie Mus. Nat. Hist., 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, Penn, 15213. - (HY birds cannot be sexed by plumage and the black head markings of AHY males are lacking in fall and winter.) MKM

Puzzling plumage in an immature male Thickbilled Weaver. H. T. Laycock. 1985. *Safring News* 14:43-44. -39 Armstrong Dr., Pietermaritzburg, 3201, South Africa. - (Unusual pattern of primaries on both wings.) MKM

Isolated male pattern feathers in the plumage of female Thickbilled Weaver. H. T. Laycock. 1985. *Safring News* 14:45-47. -39 Armstrong Dr., Pietermaritzburg 3201, South Africa. - (Five of over 750 weavers banded have shown flight feather abnormalities. Bands showed that two females, or possibly one that lost its original band, with a male sixth primary retained this pattern through several molts.) MKM

An extraordinary Evening Grosbeak. J. Dean. 1985. *Ont. Bird Banding* 17:17. - (73 Irving Place, Ottawa, Ont. K1Y 2A2. - (A case of bilateral gynandris - right half second-year female, left half second-year male.) MKM

Recent Literature

Variation in the wing-tip pattern of the Herring Gull in Britain. J. C. Coulson, P. Monahand, J. Butterfield, N. Duncan, C. S. Thomas, & H. Wright. 1982. *Bird Study* 29:111-120. -Dept. Zool., Univ. Durham, South Rd., Durham City DH1 3LE U. K. -(The proportions of Herring Gulls with particular wing tip patterns on the west coast of southern Scotland differ from those on the east coast of northern England during both winter and breeding seasons. The consistency of these results suggests a high degree of separation and isolation between these groups of gulls throughout the year.) MK

Nestling measurements and weights from two White-tailed Eagle populations in Sweden. B. Helander. 1981. *Bird Study* 28:235-241. -Svenska Naturskyddsforeningen, Kungsholms Strand 125, S-112 34, Stockholm, Sweden. -(Nestling White-tailed Eagles from three to eight weeks of age can be aged accurately by use of wing length. Tarsal thickness can be used to determine sex, with females having significantly thicker tarsi.) MK

Weight, wing length and iris colour of Hen Harrier in Orkney. N. Picozzi. 1981. *Bird Study* 28:159-161. -Instit. Terrestrial Ecol., Blackhall, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB3 3PS Scotland -(Data are reported from a study of Hen Harrier, *Circus c. cyaneus*, begun in 1975.) MK

The moult of the Fan-tailed Warbler. C. Gauci and J. Sultana. 1981. *Bird Study* 28:77-86. -The Ornithol. Soc., P.O. Box 498, Valletta, Malta. -(Molt of *Cisticola juncidis* is described from Malta, where the species is now widespread and common after first appearing as a breeding bird in 1973.) MKM

Orbital ring colours of Herring Gulls in Britain. R. E. Elliot. 1981. *Bird Study* 28:66-68. -44 Whyburn Lane, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire NG15 6QN, England -(Both yellow and purple orbital rings are found on Herring Gulls in Britain. The author found that these two types did not associate in breeding colonies, with purple-ringed birds tending to nest in cliff colonies while yellow-ringed individuals tended to nest on flatter ground.) MK

North American Banding Results

The Great Gray Owl invasion winter 1983-84. B. M. Di Labio, R. Blacquiere & R. Brouillet. 1984. *Trail & Landscape* 18:188-193. (24 Owls were banded in the Ottawa-Hull, Ont.-Que. area during a winter "invasion.") MKM

Banding in Ontario 1984. (B. W. Duncan). 1985. *Ont. Bird Banding* 17:4-11, with commentary by M. K. McNicholl, pp. 12-13. -Box 512, Caledonia, Ont. N0A 1A0. -(Report of 51,234 birds of 190 species, 4 additional subspecies and 2 hybrids banded by 13 individuals and 17 organized groups or observatories, with comments on trends and a plea for more complete reporting.) MKM

Ottawa Banding Group: 1984 report. 1984 at Innis Point. J. Dean. 1985. *Ont. Bird Banding* 17:14; Returns to Innis Point, 1984. J. Dean. 1985. pp. 15-16; Recoveries, 1984. J. Dean. 1985. p. 16. -73 Irving Place, Ottawa, Ont. K1Y 2A2. -(Report of third year of banding at Innis Point, Ottawa, Ont., with 280 returns and a small number of more distant recoveries.) MKM

Prince Edward Point Observatory: 1984 report. Recoveries, foreign recoveries and returns (non-waterfowl). R. Weir. 1985. *Blue Bill* 32:11-12, reprinted in *Ont. Bird Banding* 17:18-19. -294 Elmwood Ave., Kingston, Ont. K7M 2Y8. -(Recoveries of PEPT-banded birds of 5 species, with cumulative totals for 4 of them.) MKM

Northern Saw-whet Owl studies at Prince Edward Point Observatory in 1984. R. Weir. 1985. *Blue Bill* 32:8-9, reprinted in *Ont. Bird Banding* 17:19-20. -294 Elmwood Ave., Kingston, Ont. K7M 2Y8. -(The 110 total owls banded was unusually low, peaked late and was composed of an especially low proportion of HY birds. The total banded since 1975 reached 3702.) MKM

Foreign Banding Results

Growth, diet and mortality of Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* chicks in Shetland. P. J. Ewins. 1985. *Seabird* 8:59-68. -Edward Grey Inst. of Field Ornithol., Dept. Zool., South Parks Rd., Oxford OX1 3PS England. -(Growth of tarsus, weight and wing were measured daily on chicks banded at 0 or 1 day after hatching, healthy chicks growing at rates similar to those reported elsewhere. Average daily weight increments were smaller on chicks that died before fledging than those that remained healthy to fledging age. Fledging success varied widely from year to year.) MKM

Banding Silvereyes in western Australia. R. J. Brown & M. N. Brown. 1985. *Safring News* 14:3-6. -Middlesex Field Study Centre, RMB 253 QMS, Manjump, Western Australia. -(Banding efforts from 1977 to 1985 are outlined, with fluctuations in numbers and incidence of avian pox featured briefly and with a more detailed tabulation of returns in homing experiments.) MKM

Recent Literature

Some notes on the Cape White-eye in the Transvaal. L. J. Bunning. 1985 *Safring News* 14:7-12. -702 High Hylton, 21 Goldreich St., Hillbrow, Johannesburg, 2001, South Africa. -(Monthly statistics on captures and recoveries are given by month, based on 1973-1984 data. Data are summarized on measurements, feather emarginations, soft part colors, seasonal variation in weights, abnormalities and incidence of "wing cramps.") MKM

Notes on white-eyes in the Cape Province and south-central Africa. R. J. Dowsett. 1985. *Safring News* 14:13-18. -Percy Fitzpatrick Inst. African Ornithol., Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa. -(Data are given on measurements, molt, movements, longevity and breeding biology of two species, based largely on banding data.) MKM

Musings on the Cape White-eye in the southwestern Cape. D. A. Whitelaw. 1985. *Safring News* 14:19-24. -27 Roosevelt Rd., Claremont 7700, South Africa. -(Data are given on seasonal variation in catch, primary molt by month, weights by season, comparative weights of birds entering and leaving fig trees as a means of estimating amount eaten, and weight loss of birds kept overnight. Comments on difficulty of sex determination are included.) MKM

Local bird ringing statistics for the 1983/1984 ringing year. I. P. Newton. 1985. *Safring News* 14:36-41. -South African Bird Ringing Unit, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa. -(Summary of numbers of birds and species and of banders by country and state in southern Africa and one nearby oceanic island, with brief comments on recoveries, returns and banding effort.) MKM

Movements, mortality and the annual cycle of white-eyes in southern Africa. R. P. Prys-Jones. 1985. *Safring News* 14:25-35. -Percy Fitzpatrick Inst. African Ornithol., Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa. -(Recoveries in the Safring databank are used to summarize knowledge of movements, recovery rates, mortality, life expectancy and longevity, primarily of Cape White-eyes with more limited information on Yellow White-eyes. Seasonal data on breeding, numbers, molt, and weight are also reviewed on the basis of other publications, several from the same issue of *Safring News*.) MKM

Eye colour, age and breeding performance in Sparrowhawks, *Accipiter nisus*. I. Newton & M. Marquiss. 1982. *Bird Study* 29:195-200. -Inst. Terrestrial Ecol., Monks Wood Exper. Stn., Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE 17 2LS, England. -(Eye color darkens with age in this species. Dark-eyed males produce more young than pale-eyed males, apparently because older, more experienced males are more successful breeders. The authors were unable to determine whether females pair preferentially with dark-eyed males.) MK

Age structure and survival of wintering populations of Oystercatchers. J. D. Goss-Custard, S. E. A. Le V. D. Durrell, H. P. Sitters & R. Swinten. 1982. *Bird Study* 29:83-98. -Inst. Terrestrial Ecol., Furzebrook Res. Stn. near Wareham, Dorset BH20 5AS, England -(A wintering population of Eurasian Oystercatcher was studied for 5 years on the Exe Estuary in Devon. The authors found that 12% of juveniles died during their first autumn and winter. Comparison of the weights of juveniles with 2-5 year old immatures suggested that juveniles suffer from inexperience at foraging. Winter mortality of adults was 1.5% and that of older immatures 2.1%.) MK

Age of first breeding in the Cuckoo. D. C. Skeel, K. C. Walton & I. Wyllie. 1981. *Bird Study* 28:211-214. -Inst. Terrestrial Ecol., Bangor Res. Stn., Penrhos Rd., Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ England. -(Some first-year *Cuculus canoris* of both sexes are able to breed, such birds tending to return to the vicinity of their natal area, but later in the season than older birds.) MK

The origins of Herring Gulls wintering inland in southeastern England. P. I. Stanley, T. Brough, M. R. Fletcher, N. Horton & J. D. A. Rochard. 1981. *Bird Study* 28:123-132. -(The analysis of banding recoveries, arrival and departure dates and timing of molt suggest that Herring Gulls wintering in southeastern England breed in arctic Norway and Russia.) MK

The oldest passerine? T. B. Oatley. 1981. *Safring News* 10:27-28. -(Chorister Robin banded in May 1956, recaptured in April 1981 in Natal.) MKM

Note: New abstractors are needed for *Can. J. Zool.* and *Living Bird Quart.* I would also like to hear from abstractors familiar with Portuguese or Spanish, who would be willing to abstract occasional reports received from Iberia.

MK = Mike Kowalski

RCT = Robert C. Tweit

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl