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## Recent Literature

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## Banding Equipment and Techniques

**Patagial tags for Herring Gulls: improved durability.** A. D. M. Hart. 1987. *Ring. & Migr.* 8:19-26. -Ministry of Agriculture, Fish. & Food, Worplesdon Lab., Tanglet Place, Worplesdon, Guilford, Surrey GU3 3LQ, U.K. -(A modified attachment method increases tag durability.) RCT

**A method of roping a cannon-net.** N. A. Clark. 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 46:31-32. -Dept. Zool, Univ. Edinburgh, West Mains Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JT, U.K. -(Describes, with illustrations, methods of attaching ropes to and setting a cannon-net to maximize catching efficiency while minimizing stress to the net. Improvements on an earlier design increased the distance from the net at which birds could be caught readily from 8 m to 13 m.) MKM

**Keeping-cages and keeping-boxes.** N. A. Clark. 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 46:32-33. -Dept. Zool, Univ. Edinburgh, West Mains Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JT, U.K. -(Detailed descriptions of cages suitable for keeping large numbers of medium to small shorebirds for processing after capture in cannon-nets, and of boxes suitable for transfer from the nets to the cages, but not suitable for prolonged retention.) MKM

**A simple "head and bill" ruler.** C. M. Reynolds. 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 48:12. -50 Strouden Ave., Bournemouth, Dorset, U.K. -(Stepped-ruler with section cut away for bird's head, useful for birds up to size of godwits.) MKM

## Identification, Molts, Plumages, Weights, and Measurements

**Primary moult in Black Tern and Common Terns.** J. Walters. 1987. *Ring. & Migr.* 8:83-90. (Molt was studied by collection and identification of shed primaries in central Holland.) RCT

**Estimating the parameters for primary moult -a new statistical model.** L. G. Underhill. 1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 44:27-29. -Dept. Math. Statistics, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa -(Discusses weaknesses of using linear regression in molt analyses, presents a new model and its assumptions for such analyses, and uses data on primary molt in 1758 adult Sanderlings banded in South Africa to illustrate the model's use and assess its strengths and weaknesses.) MKM

**Further observations on the wing plumage of Dunlins.** J. Gromadzka. 1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 44:32-33. -Ornithol. Stn., 80-680 Gdansk 40, Poland. -(Observations on molt of 1209 adult Dunlins trapped in Aug. and Sept. in Poland indicate that some Dunlins more than 2 years old have inner median coverts with brownish-buff fringes, usually considered typical of younger birds. This would result in about 10% of after-second-year birds in the Baltic region being aged incorrectly if this feature was used alone.) MKM

**Axillary feathers colour patterns as indicators of the breeding origin of Bar-tailed Godwits.** E. Neiboer, J. Cronau, R. de Goede, J. Letschert and T. van der Have. 1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45:34. -Vrije Universiteit, De Boelelaan 1087, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. -(A six-part scale, with illustrations, based on amount of brown barring in axillary feathers is proposed as an aid to determining breeding origin of wintering godwits.) MKM

**Age and sex criteria of Common Snipe.** P. Grissen. 1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45:13. -Office National de la Chasse, Canteloup, 85340 Ile d'Olonne, France. -(Color, pattern, shape and length of wing coverts, tertials and underwing coverts and rectrices were found useful in age determination of 168 birds examined in western France. Post-juvenile molt varies individually, occurring between July and Nov., while prenuptial molt begins mainly in early Feb. Of the various characters examined, median coverts appeared most reliable, allowing correct determination of nearly 95% of 75 birds checked in comparison with presence or absence of the Bursa of Fabricius.) MKM

**Notes on the biometrics and egg measurements of breeding Dunlins in Sutherland, Scotland.** J. Barrett and C. Barrett. 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 46:29-30. -Gunnersvale Farm Cottage, nr. Elwick, Cleveland TS27 3HH, U.K. -(Wing lengths, total head lengths, bill lengths, tarsus lengths and weights are given for 7 adult male, 9 adult female and one first-year female captured on their nests. Adult males averaged smaller than adult females in all dimensions. As in Wales, but unlike findings in the Hebrides, there was some overlap in bill length between sexes.) MKM

**Secondary moult of Golden Plover populations wintering on the Firth of Forth, Scotland.** N. Clark and J. Clark. 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 48:8. -The Old School House, Croft St., Penicuik, Midlothian, U.K. -(Most adult Greater Golden Plovers caught at two wintering sites in Scotland had replaced secondary feathers one and

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eleven, but many had not replaced the central feathers. Birds caught in Feb. with less than 25% summer plumage had shorter wings than those with more than 25%, a difference thought to be linked with sex. The longer-winged group (presumed males) had on average molted all secondaries every other year, while the smaller-winged (presumed female) group had on average molted the central secondaries only every three or four years. Abstract only.) MKM

**Correct measurement of the wing-length of waders.** P. R. Evans. 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 48:11. -Dept. Zool., Univ. Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, U.K. -(Detailed description and illustration of method recommended by the British Trust for Ornithology in which intra- and inter-observer variation is minimized by flattening and straightening the wing along a wing-rule.) MKM

**Decrease in wing length of skins of Ringed Plover and Dunlin.** G. H. Green. 1980. *Ring. & Migr.* 3:27-28. (Variable wing shrinkage occurred in the first six months after skinning, then stabilized, with mean shrinkage of 2-3% in 10 specimens.) RCT

## North American Banding Results

**Breeding by a two-year old Sandhill Crane.** M. F. Radke and W. R. Radke. 1986. *West. Birds* 17:192-193. -Modoc NWR, P.O. Box 1610, Alturas, CA 96101. -(A female crane, banded as a nestling and later color-banded, was observed on a nest at Modoc NWR.) RCT

**Ecology of a Sierra Nevada population of Willow Flycatchers.** M. A. Flett and S. D. Sanders. 1987. *West. Birds* 18:37-42. -1764 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. -(Sixteen Willow Flycatchers were color banded to facilitate a study of breeding ecology.) RCT

**Nest-site tenacities of Least Bell's Vireo.** J. M. Greaves. 1987. *West. Birds* 18:50-54. -327 W. Islay St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101. -(394 vireos were banded as part of a five-year breeding ecology study. Males were more site tenacious than females.) RCT

**Distribution of breeding male Sage Grouse in north-eastern Utah.** K. L. Ellis, J. R. Murphy, and G. H. Richins. 1987. *West. Birds* 18:117-121. -Dept. Zool., Brigham Young Univ., Provo, UT 84602. -(18 grouse were "radio-collared" as part of a two-year study of males at a lek site.) RCT

**Forty-fifth breeding bird census. 201. Abandoned field I.** D. A. Gross. 1982. *Amer. Birds* 36:104. -Ichthyological Associates, R.D. 1, Berwick, PA 18603. -(Banding helped clarify censusing problems posed by dense vegetation and high territory density -for example, male Common Yellowthroats were found to be at a higher density than would be indicated by standard spot mapping techniques.) MKM

**Annual report to banders -summary of bird banding in Canada in 1982.** S. Wendt, L. Metras and A. Demers. 1986. *Can. Wildl. Serv. Progress Notes* No. 159. 10 pp. -Can. Wildl. Serv., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0E7. -(195,397 birds of 299 species, subspecies and hybrids were banded in Canada by 148 active master permittees and their subpermittees in 1982, an increase from 178,422 birds in 1981. Active master permit holders were up 11% from the previous year. Tables list the numbers and percentage of "non-game" and "game" birds in each of these constituencies, the three most banded of each of "game" and "non-game" species in each, the number of birds whose status was other than normal wild-caught birds, and the numbers of each species banded in each constituency.) MKM

**State report: Virginia. Raptor research and management in Virginia.** K. Terwilliger and D. Bradshower. 1987. *Eyas* 10(2):27-29. -address not given. -(Of 28 Peregrine Falcons captured at 3 Va. localities in Sept.-Oct. 1986, 4 had been banded previously. Radiotelemetry of 6 Common Barn-Owls helped determine their food habits, habitat use and home range size.) MKM

## Foreign Banding Results

**Are Common Terns successful at a man-made nesting site?** D. Norman. 1987. *Ring. & Migr.* 8:7-10. -Rowswood Cottage, Ridding Lane, Sutton Weaver, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6PF, U.K. -(*Sterna hirundo* banded at artificial nest islands were recovered in Africa at the same rate as those from other British sites.) RCT

**Winter movements and habitat use of Starlings in Norfolk.** R. W. Summers and S. J. Cross. 1987. *Ring. & Migr.* 8:11-18. -Ministry of Agriculture, Fish. and Food, Worpleson Lab., Tanglet Place, Worplesdon, Guilford, Surrey GU3 3LQ, U.K. -(Wing-tagged *Sturnus vulgaris* wandered to a number of farm-yards in winter.) RCT

**British and Irish Merlin recoveries, 1911-1984.** A. Heavisides. 1987. *Rign. & Migr.* 8:29-41. -3 Alnwickhill Dr., Edinburgh EH16 6PE, U.K. -(314 recoveries, 8%, were analyzed exhaustively.) RCT