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## Recent Literature

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# Recent Literature

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## Banding Equipment and Technique

**The zap net: an elastic-propelled variation of the cannon net.** L.G. Underhill and G.D. Underhill. 1987. *Safring News* 16:21-24. -12 Roseberry Rd., Mowbray 7700, South Africa. -(Detailed description and diagrams of net useful for catching birds that nest, roost, and/or feed on flat ground.) MKM

**Crested Barbet trapping techniques.** A Van Zyl. 1987. *Safring News* 16:25-28. -129 Ames St., Colbyn, 0083, South Africa. -(Comparative advantages and disadvantages of different traps and nets used in conjunction with live decoys, and methods of catching birds at nests.) MKM

**Population origins of Purple Sandpipers wintering in ne England and Scotland.** M. Nicoll. 1984. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 42:15. -Dundee Art Galleries & Museums, Albert Sq., Dundee, U.K. -(Roosting sandpipers were caught on small rocky spits and skerries by dazzling with a hand-held spotlight in combination with a small hand net, and with a mini-cannon net 3×7m or 4×8m with 2 to 4 jump ropes, suitable for habitat in which large cannon nets cannot function. Bathing sites were also found suitable for such mini-cannon nets. Birds caught showed seasonal variation in bill length believed to correspond to breeding areas. Abstract only.) MKM

## Identification, Molts, Plumages, Weights, and Measurement

**Potential problems in ageing and sexing Southern African passerines,** R. J. Dowsett. 1987. *Safring News* 16:17-20. -Dahlia Laan 37, B-8458 Oostduinkerke, Belgium -(Cautions concerning the use of body measurements and brood patches that apply equally well elsewhere.) MKM

**Iris colour, sex and gonadal development of Cape Weavers.** P. Barnard. 1987. *Safring News* 16:45-48. -Dept. Zool., Univ. Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa. -(Iris color is less reliable for sex determination in this species than generally believed.) MKM

**Ageing criteria for Dunlins.** N.A. Clark. 1984. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 42:39. -Dept. Zool, Univ. Edinburgh, West Mains Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JT, U.K. -(Of 5000 adult Dunlins examined in winter in England, only 4 had "adult buff" coverts instead of the usual gray, and over 1000 adults retrapped in a subsequent winter showed adult plumage both years, suggesting that "adult buff" is not acquired in later years.) MKM

**An observation of an albino Rufous-sided Towhee** (*Pipilo erythrorhynchos*). J.R. Carley. 1987. *Ont. Birds* 5:116. -218 Humbercrest Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M6S 4C3 -(Towhee at Point Pelee, Ont. with pure white crown, "smudgy" grayish-white body, and slight ochre-brown wash on flanks.) MKM

**Moult of European Swallows in central Zambia.** D.M. Francis. 1980. *Ringing & Migration* 3:4-8. (Molt was plotted for almost 1000 Barn Swallows captured on the central African wintering grounds of European populations. First-year birds start primary molt about one month later than adults.) RCT

## North American Banding Results

**Duck banding in August near Kindersley, Saskatchewan 1983-1985.** E.M. Martin. 1986. *Blue Jay* 44:38-41. -Migratory Bird Manage. Office, U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Laurel, MD 20708 -(10,037 ducks of 17 species and 2 hybrids banded.) MKM

**1986 spring Whooping Crane migration -prairie provinces.** B.W. Johns. 1986. *Blue Jay* 44:174-176. -Can. Wildl. Serv., 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4 -(Of 14 confirmed sightings in Sask., one was of a subadult color-banded in 1984 and two were color-banded in 1985, presumably all having been banded in Wood Buffalo Natl. Park, N.W.T.) MKM

**Blue-red reaches the end of the line at nine.** E. Kuyt. 1986. *Nature Soc. News* July 1986:14, reprinted in *Blue Jay* 44:254-255, 1986. -3810-103B St., Edmonton, Alta. T6J 2X9. -(Details of known life of a male Whooping Crane banded shortly after hatching until found freshly dead beside his nest in Wood Buffalo Natl. Park, N.W.T.) MKM

**Early observations of Barred Owl in Alberta.** E.T. Jones. 1987. *Blue Jay* 45:31-32. -6115-141 St., Edmonton, Alta. T6H 4A6 -(Observations from 1953 to 1981, including the banding of three young in May 1966 at Edmonton as part of documentation of first known nest record in the province.) MKM

**1986 -a brilliant year for the great white bird.** E. Kuyt and J.P. Goossen. 1987. *Blue Jay* 45:85-97. -Can. Wildl. Serv., 4999-98 Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T6B 2X3. -(A new record of 111 Whooping Cranes, including 21 juveniles, were known to be in wintering areas by 2 Feb. 1987, with 108 at Aransas Natl. Wildl. Refuge, Tex., one 70 km n.e. of there and two in Okla. Twenty-seven nests were found on the Wood Buffalo Natl. Park, N.W.T. nesting grounds, with another 2 suspected. Colorbands helped determine

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# Recent Literature

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movements of many of the wintering birds, as well as pair combinations and ages of nesting birds. Seventeen of 19 chicks from known nests were banded, as was another from a family not discovered until Aug. Three chicks were known to be unbanded.) MKM

**An owl banding trip in 1986.** W. Lyon. 1987. *Blue Jay* 45:123. -765 Horace St., Regina, Sask. S4T 5K7 -(Young were banded at several Great Horned Owl and one Short-eared Owl nests near Raymore, Sask. A band among prey remains had come from a Merlin banded at Homefield, Sask.) MKM

**Calgary's Peregrine Falcons, 1987.** D. Elphinstone, and J. McFaul. 1987. *Pica* 7(4):3-5. -219 Northmount Dr. NW, Calgary, Alta. T2K 3G6. -(A banded male seen mating with a female was determined to be a different bird than the male that nested in Calgary the previous year.) MKM

**The Pan American shorebird program: a progress report.** J.P. Myers, G. Castro, B. Harrington, M. Howe, J. Mason, E. Ortiz, M. Sallaberry, C.T. Schick, and E. Tabilo. 1984. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 42:26-31. -Acad. Nat. Sci., 19th and the Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103 -(Progress to date and future plans for an international banding and color-marking program involving the entire western hemisphere are outlined in general, with more detailed sections on banding along the South American Pacific coast, Venezuela, and Brazil. The value of the program is illustrated by a detailed account of sightings in North America of Sanderlings color-marked in Peru and Chile.) MKM

**British Columbia Wildlife autumn report 1987.** R.W. Campbell. 1987. *B. C. Nat.* 25(4):6-7. -B.C. Prov. Mus., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4 -(A Purple Finch banded in Minn. in April 1975 was recovered at Ware Lake, B.C. in June 1976, while another banded in Kans. in June 1984 was caught by a cat near Telkwa, B.C. in May 1987.) MKM

**Movements of radio-tagged Bald Eagles, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, in and from southeastern Alaska.** J.I. Hodges, E.L. Boeker, and A.J. Hansen. 1987. *Can. Field-Nat.* 101:136-140. -U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Box 1287, Juneau, Alaska 99802 -(In order to determine the breeding distribution of large annual Oct. -Jan. concentrations of Bald Eagles along the Chilkat R. in the Alaskan Panhandle, 31 eagles were radio-tagged from 1979 through 1982. Most were caught in a spring-loaded perch snare, while a few were caught in padded steel traps or monofilament snares attached to floating fish. All birds moved southward in early winter, adults and subadults remaining to breed in

the Panhandle. Approximately 73% of first-year and immature birds moved farther s. into coastal B.C. and Wash., with one found 1500 km s. of the Chilkat. Only two of 15 first-year and immature eagles returned to the Chilkat or nearby areas the following summer or fall. Although sample size was small, the higher known mortality among first-year than among older birds is consistent with findings in other bird species.) MKM

**An observation of renesting by a Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*.** M.W. Tome. 1987. *Can. Field-Nat.* 101:153-154. -Patuxent Wildl. Res. Cent., Laurel, MD 20708. -(After the eggs were removed from 5 nests of incubating hens marked individually by feather imping, one was retrapped nine days later on another nest, providing the first positive record of renesting in the stiff-tailed ducks, Oxyurini. A second marked female was seen near a nest on a wetland 0.2 km from her first nest, suggesting a possible additional case. The other 3 hens were not seen again.) MKM

**The oldest waterthrush.** B. Collier. 1987. *Long Point Bird Observatory Newsletter* 19(3):5. -c/o LPBO, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1MO -(Northern Waterthrush banded at Long Point, Ont. in Aug. 1978 and recaptured in Mich. in May 1987 was at least 8 yr. 11 months old when recaptured, more than a year older than the previous record.) MKM

**Overwintering locations of Wood Storks captured in east-central Georgia.** J.A. Comer, M.C. Coulter, and A. L. Bryan, Jr. 1987. *Colonial Waterbirds* 10:162-166. -School of Forest Resources, Univ. Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602 -(Movements of three storks caught in 1984 and two more caught in 1985 were followed through telemetry. All birds wintered in Florida, but no two at the same location, and individual birds went to different areas in the two winters. These differences in winter destination and a nearly two month difference in fall departure dates between years may reflect differences in weather patterns between years.) MKM

**A visitor from Texas.** D. Lamble. 1985. *Ont. Bird Banding Assoc. Newsletter* 30(4):8. -745 Guelph St., Fergus, Ont. N1M 2X5 -(Pine Siskin banded in Tex. in Feb. 1981, recovered in Ont., March 1985.) MKM

## Foreign Banding Results

**Homing ability of the South African Cliff Swallows.** R.E. Earle. *Safring News* 16:3-7. -(Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa -(Homing abilities were tested by releases of 121 birds in 1983/84 and 483 birds in 1985/86.

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## Recent Literature

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A strong ability to home was demonstrated, with adults scoring significantly higher than first-year birds, but with no differences between sexes, a finding consistent with results in other swallow species in which sexes participate approximately equally in breeding.) MKM

**Thirteen years of ringing swifts.** L.J. Bunning. 1987. *Safring News* 16:9-12. -702 High Hylton, 21 Goldreich St., Hillbron, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa -(1313 swifts of 5 species were caught in 13 years on a nature reserve, primarily by erecting mist nets over termitaria and by "flicking," a method whereby two people hold a net parallel to the ground in the flight-path of the swifts, and flick it into vertical position at the approach of a swift. The oldest retrap to date has been a Whiterumped Swift caught 91 months 24 days after initial banding. Various measurements are summarized in table form.) MKM

**A poor breeding season for ground-nesting birds in the Taimyr Peninsula in 1986.** L.G. Underhill. 1987. *Safring News* 16:13-15. -Dept. Math. Statistics, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa -(Shorebirds of 5 species banded in South Africa and Zimbabwe in austral summer 1986/1987 showed a very low percentage of first-year birds, indicating poor breeding success on their arctic breeding grounds in 1986.) MKM

**Longevity of Aldabran birds.** P.J. Roberts. 1987. *Safring News* 16:16. -3 Childscroft Rd., Rainhow, Kent, England -(Souimanga Sunbird retrapped 10 years after banding, Malagasy Bulbuls at 10, 11 and 12 years, and Pied Crow at 12 years.) MKM

**Experiences with colour-dyed Common Terns.** J. Hofmeyer. 1987. *Safring News* 16:29-30. -Dept. Math. Statistics, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa -(59 birds were marked with picric acid at a night roost to determine movements to and from various daytime roosts.) MKM

**Colourband loss in Cape Gannets.** J.H. Colclough and G.J.B. Ross. 1987. *Safring News* 16:35-37. -c/o Port Elizabeth Mus., Box 13147, Humewood 6013, South Africa -(Large numbers of color bands were lost from both chicks and adults, sometimes damaging the webs of the birds' feet. Close observations of breeding birds and data from retraps showed a marked improvement when bands were glued closed with cyano-acrylate adhesive. Although loss appeared to result from breakdown of the glue rather than from any action by the birds, black bands were lost at twice (50%) the rate of white (25%) bands, while loss of all other colors was much less (11%). MKM

**Studies of Green Sandpipers wintering in southern England.** K.W. Smith, J.M. Reed, and B.E. Trevis. 1984. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 42:15 -26 Moorlands, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL7 4PP, U.K. -(Color banding showed that wintering sandpipers consisted of five or six regulars that maintained exclusive feeding territories plus additional birds that arrived in colder weather and attempted to establish new territories, spending much more time in boundary disputes than the regulars. Abstract only.) MKM

**Shorebird migration through central Venezuela.** B.T. Thomas. 1984. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 42:25. -1 Wetsel Rd., Troy, N.Y. 12182 -(A Least Sandpiper was caught that had been banded the previous Sept. in Mass., while two others retrapped at same Venezuelan banding site indicated migration stop-over fidelity.) MKM

**BTO/WSG west coast spring migration passage project. A progress report.** M. Moser, P. Ferns and S. Baillie. 1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 43:9-13. -Beech Grove, Tring, Herts., U.K. -(In 1984, 301 Ringed Plovers, 734 Dunlins, 261 Ruddy Turnstones and 46 Sanderlings were dye-marked and banded at 6 sites on the west coast and one on the south coast of England, with several additional first-year birds of all but Sanderlings also banded but not dyed. Five dyed Ringed Plovers and 4 Dunlins were reported as seen elsewhere in the British Isles, while 2 Ringed Plovers and one Ruddy Turnstone appeared in Iceland.) MKM

**International wader migration studies along the east Atlantic flyway during 1985. Second progress report.** T. Piersma. 1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 44:17-18. -Korte Nieuwstrade 4, 9724 Le Groningen, The Netherlands. -(In this ambitious two-continent project, over 10,000 shorebirds were captured and banded at sites ranging from Iceland to South Africa. These included almost 6000 birds of 7 target species (Ringed and Black-bellied Plovers, Red Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit and Ruddy Turnstone) that were also color-dyed, and resighting of such birds helped determine timing of local movements, area-wide departure times, and other details of flock interactions. Lack of sightings was also informative - of at least 18,000 shorebirds checked in the Delta area of the Netherlands, *none* had been dyed elsewhere. Recoveries or sightings outside the country of banding included birds marked in Mauritania and seen later in France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, West Germany and Denmark, and resightings of British-marked birds in Iceland.) MKM

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

RCT = Robert C. Tweit