

1989

## Recent Literature

North American Bird Bander

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### Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1989) "Recent Literature," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 14 : Iss. 3 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol14/iss3/8>

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# Recent Literature

## North American Banding Results

**Crow longevity record.** F. A. Dilling. 1988. Ont. Bird Banding Assoc. Newsletter 33(2):2-3. (Letter from 83-year-old bander of 48 years, initially to C.S. Houston, including a recovery of a Common Grackle over 10 years old and a recovery of an American Crow 29-1/2 years old, just over twice the age of 14 years, 3 months, listed as the oldest crow by Clapp et al. 1984. Journ. Field Ornithol. 54:123-136.) MKM

**Western Great Lakes region.** J. Peacock. 1988. Hawk Migration Studies 14(1):54-55. -30 North Sixth St., Madison, WI 53704-(Hawk Ridge, near Duluth, Minn. had their second highest banding total of Northern Saw-whet Owls, with 535 banded during the fall 1987 migration, when 68 Long-eared, 8 Boreal and 2 Barred Owls were also caught. The Boreals tied the 1976 record.) MKM

**Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1986 annual report.** S. Junkind. 1988. BBO Rept. No. 4. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton. 21 pp. -Box 4943, Edmonton, Alta. T6E5G8 - (An increase in effort resulted in banding of 1,676 birds of 55 species by BBO personnel, while Edgar T. Jones banded 389 birds of 40 species elsewhere at the lake, for a combined total of 2,065 birds of 69 species. 51 birds of 12 species were recorded as repeats, while 24 birds of 7 species banded in previous years returned.) MKM

**Nest sites and aggressive behaviour of Piping and Wilson's Plovers in Virginia: some preliminary results.** P. W. Bergstrom and K. Terwilliger. 1987. Wader Study Group Bull. 50:35-39. -Dept. Biol., Washington & Lee Univ., Lexington, VA 24450 -(Nest site fidelity between years was documented for one pair of Piping Plovers.) MKM

## Foreign Banding Results

**Mortality of Snipe estimated from a mark and recapture study.** I. M. Spence. 1988. Ring. & Migr. 9:27-31. -11 Tan y Bryn, Pwllglas, Ruthin, Clwyd LL15 2PJ, U.K. -(The annual survival of *Gallinago gallinago* was estimated at 62.5% from a sample of 1011 banded birds.) RCT

**Wader migration systems in the east Atlantic.** T. Piersma, A.J. Beintema, N.C. Davidson, OAG Munster and M.W. Pienkowski. 1987. Wader Study Group Bull. 49, suppl.:35-56. -Zool. Lab., Univ. Groningen, Box 14, 9750 AA Haren, The Netherlands. -(Detailed review of migration of shorebirds from Ellesmere Is., Greenland, Iceland, the British Isles and other Scandinavian countries south through western Europe to western Africa. The history of banding and color-marking projects forms an integral part of our under-

standing of these migration systems, as these techniques have helped define the flyway as including the extreme eastern portions of the high Arctic islands of North America.) MKM

**Studies on the breeding origins of waders in the Dutch Wadden Sea: a progress report.** M. Englemore, G. Boere, E. Nieboer and C. Roselaar. 1987. Wader Study Group Bull. 49, suppl.:79. -Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij, Postbus 20020, 3502 LA Utrecht, The Netherlands. -(About 20,000 shorebirds have been banded on the Dutch portion of the Wadden Sea since the early 1970's, totalling over half the shorebirds banded in the Netherlands since banding began there in 1911. Of the 39,000 shorebirds banded between 1911 and 1982, about 1800 have been recovered outside the Wadden Sea, 35% from outside the Netherlands. Biometric studies have recently begun to attempt to improve knowledge of breeding origins of these birds.) MKM

**The migration of waders through north-east Iceland.** J.P. Whitfield and J. Magnusson. 1987. Wader Study Group Bull. 49, suppl.:85-89 -Dept. Zool., Univ. Cambridge, Downing St., Cambridge CB2 3EJ, U.K. -(Color-marked shorebirds observed included a Ruddy Turnstone banded in north-east England, a Red Knot leg-flagged in West Germany, and locally marked Dunlins.) MKM

**International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: news from spring 1987.** N. Davidson and T. Piersma. 1987. Wader Study Group Bull. 40:5-6. -c/o Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA, U.K. -(Red Knots continue to be the primary focus of this project, with 300 dye-marked in France in late winter, 900 caught on the Alt Estuary of Great Britain in late Feb., 170 color-marked in Iceland, 500 caught in Guinea-Bissau, and unspecified numbers banded in several other countries stretching from Ellesmere Island in northern Canada to Guinea-Bissau in west Africa. Recoveries and sightings of knots banded elsewhere included Norwegian-banded birds in Britain and Guinea-Bissau, British-banded birds in Norway and Ellesmere Is., an Iceland-banded bird in Britain, a Dutch-banded bird in Guinea-Bissau and Guinea-Bissau-banded birds in Norway and the Netherlands. Returns to previous banding sites were also reported in the Netherlands, Norway and Ellesmere Is. Large numbers of other shorebirds were also banded, some being color-banded or dyed. Other recoveries involved Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, Curlew Sandpiper, and Purple Sandpiper.) MKM

## Banding Equipment and Techniques

**Red-tailed Hawk captured in a Sharp-tailed Grouse trap.** R.K. Baydack. 1988. Blue Jay 46:38-39. -Nat. Resources

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Inst., Univ. Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 2N2. -(Hawk apparently squeezed through funnel entrance to trap designed to catch grouse on leks for banding purposes. Dimensions and some other details of traps are included.) MKM

**A non-slip device for securing guy lines to net poles.** D. deSwardt. 1988. *Safring News* 17:23. -Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa. -(Wire hook designed to prevent slippage of nylon rope on wooden poles.) MKM

**A cast-net for trapping nightjars (and others).** R.A. Earle. 1988. *Safring News* 17:25-28. -Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa. -(Using a technique whereby the observer sat on an outboard chair on the hood of a slowly moving car while the driver operated a spotlight until a bird was encountered in the road, 85 birds of 9 species were captured in a specially designed cast-net, and 12 birds of 4 species were later recaptured.) MKM

**A pitfall in the use of the otoscope technique for sexing birds.** D. M. Ward. 1988. *Safring News* 17:29-30. -Dept. Zool. & Entomol., Univ. Natal, Box 375, Pietermaritzburg, 3200, Natal. -(14 Crowned Plovers and 6 Crested Barbets held in captivity for 3 weeks after laparotomy showed no ill effects from the operation, but the technique was successful in sex determination of only the barbets. The author thus suggests that this procedure be used only when no other means of sex determination is possible and the journal editor further cautions against its use by persons without veterinary training.) MKM

**Who says ringing isn't hazardous?** F. Douwes. 1988. *Safring News* 17:33-35. -Box 9807, Johannesburg, 2000, South Africa. -(A Boomslang, a back-fanged poisonous snake, attempted to prey on a weaver in a mist net while the bander was extracting the bird! Although the snake once succeeded in grabbing the weaver by the bill, the author managed to extract both bird and snake without major harm to bird, snake or author, and the weaver survived to be netted again 4 months later.) MKM

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

**Ageing and sexing British Lesser Redpolls.** M. Boddy. 1981. *Ringling & Migration* 3:193-202. (A detailed key to age and sex determination in *Carduelis flammea cabaret* is provided.) RCT

**Biometrics in waders.** M. Engelmoer, C.S. Roselaar, E. Nieboer and G. C. Boere. 1987. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 51:44-47. -Natl. Forest Serv., Pb. 20020, 3502 LA Utrecht, The Netherlands. -(Discussion of various measurements on

shorebirds from Europe, North Amer. and Asia, with request for international co-operative studies.) MKM

**The field identification of Bachman's Warbler (*Vermivora bachmanii* Audubon).** P.B. Hamel and S.A. Gauthreaux, Jr. 1982. *Amer. Birds* 36:235-240. -Tennessee Natl. Hrtge. rogr., Conservation Dept., 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37219-5237. -(Based on examination of over 400 museum specimens in comparison with descriptions in field guides and other paintings. A yellow bend in the wing and white tail spots in males have been overlooked frequently, while eye rings of females are more often whitish than yellow, as generally described. Age differences within each sex are also discussed.) MKM

**Discriminant and graphical analyses of Norwegian Knot biometrics: the sex and race problem revisited.** A.G. Wood. 1988. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 52:9-11. -Brit. Antarctic Surv., High Cross, Madingley Rd., Cambridge, CB2 0ET, U.K. -(A discriminant analysis based on 2267 Red Knots caught in May at Balsfjord, Norway, failed to provide a clear distinction between sexes, but allowed positive sex determination at extreme values. The data suggests that only one race is present at Balsfjord in May.) MKM

**Sightings of albino flicker at Pike Lake, Saskatchewan.** A. Forsyth. 1988. *Blue Jay* 46:40-41. -197-325 5th Ave., Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 2P7. -(Nearly white flicker with red patch on nape, faint yellow on "lower back" (as stated in text) or more likely outer primaries (as indicated in photo caption) and pale bill.) MKM

**The wing-moult of Fulmars and shearwaters (*Procellariidae*) in Canadian Atlantic waters.** R.G.B. Brown. 1988. *Can Field-Nat.* 102:203-208. -Can. Wildl. Serv., Bedford Inst. Oceanography, Box 1006, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4A2. -(Timing of primary molt of light and dark non-breeding Northern Fulmar and of Greater and Sooty Shearwaters was documented by observations on 4 oceanographic cruises off Atlantic Canada from 1977 to 1987, and compared with museum material, published data and observations of the author in the Canadian Arctic, off California and in Greenland. Briefer notes on wing molt of Manx and Cory's Shearwaters are also included.) MKM

**Bird weights from the Orange Free State (part I: non-passerines).** J.J. Herholdt. 1988. *Safring News* 17:13-14. -Nossob Restcamp, Kalahari Gensbok Natl. Park, Private Bag X5890, P.O. Gensbok Park, 8815, South Africa. -(Weights of collected specimens immediately after being shot of 85 species, of which Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron,

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Fulvous Whistling Duck, Common Moorhen, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff and Barn Owl also occur regularly in North America.) MKM

**Cross-breeding in closely related species?** D.B. Hanmer. 1988. *Safring News* 17:22. -Sucoma, Private Bag 50, Blantyre, Malawi. -(Descriptions of one possible hybrid Melba Finch x Golden-backed Pytelia and two possible hybrid Bluebilled Firefinch x Jameson's Firefinch, both species pairs consisting of a species common to the author's study area and a species recently expanding into the area.) MKM

**Ageing and sexing Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cullatus*.** R.F. Scogins. 1988. *Safring News* 17:39-40. -Dept. Zool., Univ. Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa. -(Mandible color, gape color and head plumage allow juveniles to be separated into 7 distinct classes.) MKM

**The Ash-throated Flycatcher in the east: an overview.** W.L. Murphy. 1982. *Amer. Birds* 36:241-247. -14800 Fourth St., Apt. 95D, Laurel, MD 20810. -(Includes detailed discussion on distinguishing Ash-throated from Brown-crested, Great Crested and Dusky-capped Flycatchers.) MKM

### North American Banding Results

**Status of breeding colonies of White Pelican in the United States through 1979.** N.F. Sloan. 1982. *Amer. Birds* 36:250-254. Dept. Forestry, Mich. Tech. Univ., Houghton, Mich. 49931. -(Color-banded pelicans from Chase Lake, N.D. have been observed in Minn. and Alta.) MKM

**Cooperative Snow Goose banding on the Fraser River Delta.** R. McKelvey. 1987. *B.C. Nat.* 25(1):13. -Can. Wildl. Serv., Box 340, Delta, B.C. V4K 3Y3. -(In an attempt to determine whether Alaskan and Siberian-breeding Snow Geese wintering on the Fraser River delta interchange with those wintering farther south along the Pacific coast, various Canadian and U.S. Wildlife agencies collar-banded about 400 wintering geese in 1986. Of these, over 300 were resighted, including "many" on the Skagit River delta and some at the mouth of the Columbia River.) MKM

**Some interesting recoveries.** J. Miles. 1987. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 32(1):3. -Box 659, New Hamburg, Ont. NOB 2G0. -(7 recoveries of 6 species banded in Ont., including a Rose-breasted Grosbeak found dead in Honduras.) MKM

**Foraging behavior and food habits of Burrowing Owls in Wyoming.** C.D. Thompson and S.H. Anderson. 1988. *Prairie Nat.* 20:23-28. -Wyoming Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, Box 3166, University Stn., Laramie, Wyoming 82071. -(Alumi-

num bands of 14 adult owls were hand painted to allow individual recognition by observers, who obtained 570 observations of mated pairs in 1982 and 1983. Adult males accounted for 71% of observed activity and foraged farther from the nest area than females. Ground foraging was the method most used by both sexes, peaking during mid-day. Males hunted from perches more often than females and used this method primarily between 0600 and 1100 and 1700 and 2000 hours. Males also hovered more than females, primarily between 1900 and 2200 hours.) MKM

**Wild Turkey nesting ecology in south central South Dakota.** T.L. Wertz and L.D. Flake. 1988. *Prairie Nat.* 20:29-37. -Dept. Wildl. & Fish. Serv., S.D. State Univ., Brookings, S.C. 57007. -(Movements of hens were monitored through telemetry, with 23 adults and 12 juveniles monitored in 1984 and 1985. Transmitters allowed observers to locate nests and determine nest initiation dates and nesting success.) MKM

**Length of stay record for a Whooping Crane in Nebraska.** G.A. Faanes and G.R. Lingle. 1988. *Prairie Nat.* 20:46. -U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., 2604 St. Patrick Ave., Grand Island, NE 68803. -(Color-marked immature known to have wintered with Sandhill Cranes in Oklahoma was observed in Nebraska for 34 days in March and April 1987, and then seen in late May near its hatching site of the previous year in Wood Buffalo Natl. Park, N.W.T.) MKM

**Mountain Bluebirds show fidelity to nesting boxes and maintenance of pair bonding.** W. Hoffman and H. Pletz. 1988. *Alta. Nat.* 18:101. -133 Kaskitayo Court, Edmonton, Alta. T6J 3T3. -(Both male and female of a pair banded in 1986 returned to the same box in 1988.) MKM

**Direct recovery in Alaska of California-banded Cattle Egret.** D.D. Gibson and N.D. Hogg. 1982. *Amer. Birds* 36:335. -Univ. Alaska Mus., 907 Yukon Dr., Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. -(Alaska's first record of Cattle Egret comprised 4 birds in Ketchikan in Nov. 1981, one of which had been banded as a nestling at the Salton Sea, Calif., in June of the same year.) MKM

**Recent recoveries of ringed waders.** N. Clark, J. Clark and P. Ireland. 1988. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 52:37-43. -27 Hainfield Dr., Solihull, West Midlands B91 2PL, U.K. -(Formerly restricted to birds banded in Great Britain and Ireland, this column expanded in this issue to cover as much of the world as possible. It will be abstracted in NABB only when North Amer. bandings or recoveries in North Amer. of birds banded elsewhere are included. This issue includes a recovery of a Red Knot on Bathurst Is., N.W.T., and another of a Ruddy Turnstone on Ellesmere Is., N.W.T., both banded in Great Britain.) MKM

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## Foreign Banding Results

**Observations on the breeding of White-browed Woodswallows.** H.F. Recher and M. Schulz. 1983. *Corella* 7:1-6. -The Australian Mus., 6-8 College St., Sydney, N.S.W. 2000, Australia. -(Brood patches of captured birds suggested breeding or attempted breeding locally in New South Wales. Growth rates of nestlings and fledglings are given for marked young. Premature departures of handling young were prevented by returning them to the nest and covering the nest firmly with a cloth for 30 min.) MKM

**Seasonal variation in wader numbers and distribution at the Ria de Faro.** R. Rufino and A. Araujo. 1987. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 51:48-53. -CEMPA, R. Filipe Folque 46, 5, 1000 Lisboa, Portugal. -(Color marking helped sort out movements of Dunlin through this important shorebird staging site in Portugal.) MKM

**An historical overview of wader ringing in Italy.** N. Bacetti, L. Bendini and L. Serra. 1987. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 51:32. -Istituto Nazionale Biologica Selveggi, Via Stradelli Guelfi, I-40064 Ozzano Emilia BO, Italy. -(Banding in Italy started in 1929, but until recently was conducted by several independent groups, each of which made their own bands. Thus, banding totals for the country as a whole are available for only about 10 years. The authors were able to locate records of 35,163 shorebirds banded in Italy, with highest numbers in the 1935-1940 period and 1966-1970 and subsequent periods. There was a low during the second World War and following decade. Lapwings accounted for 35.5% of all bandings and Ruffs 23.7%. Trends in banding of several species are discussed, some of which reflect changes in populations.) MKM

**Does the Nearctic Knot *Calidris canutus islandica* migrate through the south-western Baltic?** H.W. Nehls. 1987. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 51:53-55. -Zoologischen Garten Rostock, Rennbahnallee, 2500 Rostock, German Democratic Republic. -(To date, 36 of 2200 Red Knots (about 1.6%) banded in the GDR have been recovered in other countries, while 17 of the birds captured in the GDR (0.8%) had been banded elsewhere previously. All interchanges have been with other countries in Europe and Africa, and most of the birds appear to be Siberian-breeding Knots of the race *Calidris canutus canutus*, but timing and morphometrics suggest that a small proportion are of the Nearctic race *C.c. islandica*.) MKM

**Interesting recoveries of Dutch-ringed Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus*.** P.L. Meininger. 1988. *Wader Study*

*Group Bull.* 52:8. -Rijkswaterstaat, Dept. of Tidal Waters, Div. Biol., Box 8039, 4330 EA Middelburg, The Netherlands. -(63 adult and 160 chick Kentish Plovers were banded in sw Netherlands in 1986 and 1987. An adult female banded after capture on her nest in June 1986 was recovered in Guinea Bissau in Dec. of that year. Another breeding female caught on her nest in June 1987 had been banded as a chick in June 1972, providing a new longevity record of 15 years for this species, which is generally regarded as conspecific with our Snowy Plover.) MKM

**Safring statistics for the 1985-1986 and 1986-1987 ringing years.** T. Oatley. 1988. *Safring News* 17:15-21. -South Africa Bird Ringing Unit, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa. -(32,191 birds of 453 species were banded in South Africa and several surrounding countries during the July 1985 to June 1986 period and 35,975 birds of 474 species during the comparable 1986-1987 period. Regional figures and details on numbers of banders, recoveries and recaptures, and causes of death are also given.) MKM

**The Short-tailed Albatross, *Diomedea albatrus*, its status, distribution and natural history.** H. Hasegawa and A.R. Degone. 1982. *Amer. Birds* 36:806-814. -Dept. Biol., Toho Univ., Miyama, Funabashi, Chiba 274, Japan. -(Several birds banded as nestlings on the island of Torishima, Japan, in 1964 were still breeding in 1982. Other details on pair bonding, site tenacity, and age of first breeding are presumably based on banded birds.) MKM

**A study of the Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*.** J.M. Mendelsohn. 1985. *Raptor Research* 19:30-31. -Durban Nat. Hist. Mus., Box 4085, Durban, 4000, South Africa. -(Color banding in South Africa showed that paired birds experienced better feeding conditions than unpaired kites. Some males with established feeding territories showed high site tenacity, but residency turnover of both sexes in general was 26% per month. Females did not normally establish feeding territories, but if mated shared those of the mates.) MKM

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl  
RCT = Robert C. Tweit

