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News, Notes, Comments

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of this endangered species is isolated geographically. Recoveries indicate a high rate of mortality up to five years, after which life expectancy is high, with one bird known to have attained 21 years 5 months.) MKM

Neotropical raptors and deforestation: notes on diurnal raptors at Finca el Faro, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. J.P. Vannini. 1989. *J. Raptor Res.* 23:27-38. - Fundacion Interamericana de Investigacion Tropical, Avenida La Reforma 8-60, Oficina 1104, Zona 9, Guatemala City, Guatemala. -(Mist nets were responsible for two birds caught and several others attracted to the sounds of those caught.) MKM

Starvation of Curlew *Numenius arquata* chicks. D.W. Yalden and P. E. Yalden. 1989. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 56:15. -Dept. Environ. Biol., The University, Manchester, UK M13 9PL. -(As demonstrated by banded chicks later recovered by a dog.) MKM

The status of waders in Bulgaria. D. Nanikov. 1989. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 16-25. -Inst. of Zool., Bulgarian Acad. of Science, Bowl. Rouski 1, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria. -(Recoveries in Africa and Asia of several shorebird species banded in Bulgaria and recoveries in Bulgaria of birds banded elsewhere show the origins of birds migrating through or wintering in Bulgaria. Banding has also indicated duration of stay of some species in Bulgaria, and site fidelity from year to year of migrant Redshanks. One recovery in Bulgaria was of a Ruff banded 9 years earlier in Norway.) MKM

Waders, wind and water: the north-west Australian wader expedition 1988. J. Clark and N. Clark. 1988. *BTO*

News 157, reprinted in *Wader Study Group Bull.* 56:26-27, 1989. -c/o Wader Study Group, Box 247, Tring, Herts. HP23 5SN, U.K. -(Results of a banding expedition in which 6000+ shorebirds of 24 species were banded, including 300 Broad-billed Sandpipers in one evening. Two birds banded elsewhere were recovered: a Bar-tailed Godwit banded in Hong King and a Terek Sandpiper banded at an unknown location with a Japanese band.) MKM

Red Knot *Calidris canutus rogersi* in Australia. Part 2. Biometrics and moult in Victoria and north-western Australia. M. Barter, A. Jessop, and C. Minton. 1988. *Stilt* 13:20-27 & 1989. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 56:28-35. -21 Chivalry Ave., Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150, Australia. -(Based on 1450 knots captured from 1978 to 1988, with data on biometrics, primary and breeding plumage molt, age structure, longevity and site fidelity.) MKM

Population dynamics of the Wood Thrush in southern Veracruz, Mexico. K. Winker, J.H. Rappole and M.A. Ramos. 1990. *Condor* 92:444-460. -Dept. of Ecol. & Behav. Biol., Univ. of Minnesota, 10 Church St., SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. -(Wood Thrushes were banded and some were radio marked.) RCT

Social system and helping behavior in the White-banded Tanager (*Neothraupis fasciata*). M.A.S. Alves. 1990. *Condor* 92:470-474. -School of Mol. & Biol. Sci., Univ. of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA, Scotland. -(Tanagers were color banded.) RCT

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

RCT = Robert C. Tweit

News, Notes, Comments

AN INVITATION TO THE BIRD BANDERS OF NORTH AMERICA TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MONITORING AVIAN PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVORSHIP (MAPS) PROGRAM

The Institute for Bird Populations extends an invitation to North American bird banders to become part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program--a cooperative, continent-wide network of constant-effort, mist-netting stations for the long-term monitoring of landbird productivity, survivorship and population levels. It is becoming increasingly apparent that Earth's biosphere, and its landbird populations, are facing a growing number of environmental threats of ever increasing severity. Many of these threats are truly global in nature: habitat loss, climate change, loss of stratospheric ozone, and toxic pollution. Indeed, a number of large-scale, long-term biomonitoring programs for landbirds are already in place on this continent including the Breeding Bird Survey, the Breeding Bird Census and Winter Bird

Population Study, and the Christmas Bird Count. These efforts all provide annual estimates of population trends for landbirds. Many of the resulting trends indicate serious population declines in many species, especially forest-inhabiting neotropical migrant species in eastern North America. All of these efforts, however, fail to separate the effects of productivity (birth rate effects) from the effects of survivorship (death rate effects). Without these critical data, it is impossible to test hypotheses to account for the observed population changes. Clearly, the need for a continuing and comprehensive program of demographic monitoring through constant-effort mist netting is justified.

Here is where the efforts of banders like us can aid enormously. By banding and recapturing in subsequent years the individual birds that we encounter, we can accumulate data on the population size and survivorship of the birds. By accurately ageing each individual, we can accumulate data on the numbers and proportions of young birds captured and thus on the productivity of the birds.

Furthermore, by networking with other banders, we can provide meaningful information on changes in productivity and survivorship over large geographical areas.

Now in its fourth year, the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program, coordinated by The Institute for Bird Populations, has expanded considerably from 17 stations in 1989 to 67 stations in 1991. Recently endorsed by the Monitoring Working Group of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program as a necessary and potentially viable tool for determining changes in the productivity and survivorship of landbirds, the MAPS program should dovetail nicely with other large-scale, long-term biomonitoring programs already being conducted on the continent. Furthermore, the operation of a four-year pilot MAPS program in the northeast and northwest regions of the continent is expected to be approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this winter.

In the summer of 1992, we wish to establish at least 40 MAPS stations in both the northeast and northwest regions to determine the actual precision of our estimates of the various population and demographic parameters. Analysis of the first three years (1989-1991) of MAPS data suggest that there are twelve species in the northeast and twelve species in the northwest for which 40 stations in each region will provide sufficient sample sizes to permit sufficiently precise determinations of productivity and survivorship. These target species are Black-capped Chickadee, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal and Song Sparrow in the northeast; and Dusky Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Oregon Junco in the northwest.

The MAPS program provides banders with the opportunity to make an important and crucial contribution to avian biomonitoring. Moreover, the methodology is simple and straightforward.

(1) Establish a study area and banding station at a location that can be utilized for at least five years, and that will permit the capture of substantial numbers of many of the common species of landbirds. Stations established in the northeast or northwest must be able to capture substantial numbers of at least one of the target species listed above.

(2) Set up a series of mist nets at 6 to 20 permanent net sites in the study area.

(3) Operate these nets in a standardized manner for about six morning hours per day, and for one day only in each of about eight to ten consecutive ten-day periods between

about mid-May and late August. Each station should begin netting after migrant individuals have passed through the study site and should curtail netting before substantial numbers of migrant individuals return in the fall.

(4) Identify to species, age and sex, and band all birds captured, including recaptures.

We urge banders from all parts of North America, and particularly from the northeast and northwest regions, to become part of this exciting project. For more information, please write The Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, or call (415) 663-1436.

Oriane E. Williams and David F. DeSante

PLEASE CHECK HUMMINGBIRDS FOR BANDS

Attention banders and banding stations!
Hummingbird banders need your help!

If you capture hummingbirds but do not band them, please check each bird for a band before it is released. Remove hummingbirds carefully from the net so that the bird does not lose a band in the process. Hummingbird feet are so small it is possible for a band to slip off when the band is caught in a net.

Bands are not readily visible. It may be necessary to extend the legs to look carefully. This can be facilitated by offering the bird a small twig to grasp with both feet.

Should you have the good fortune to net a banded bird, please report the band number as soon as possible to the Bird Banding Lab. Hummingbird banders will thank you.

Ruth O. Russell
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Should you be interested please write:

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