

1991

News, Notes, Comments

North American Bird Bander

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Note: Currently abstracted journals and their assigned abstractors are:

Alberta Naturalist (MKM)
American Birds (MKM)
Birds of Prey Bulletin (MKM)
Blue Jay (MKM)
Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Science (CTC)
Canadian Field-Naturalist (MKM)
Canadian Journal of Zoology (RAR)
Colonial Waterbirds (MKM)
Condor (RCT)
Corella (Exchange)
Hawk Migration Studies (MKM)
Journal of Field Ornithology (RCT)
Journal of Raptor Research (MKM)
Journal of Wildlife Management (RCT)
Northwestern Naturalist* (MKM)

Ontario Bird Banding (MKM)
Ontario Birds (MKM)
Prairie Naturalist (MKM)
Ringing & Migration (RCT)
Safring News (Exchange)
Seabird (MKM)
Sialia (MKM)
Wader Study Group Bulletin (MKM)
Western Birds (RCT)

* = New name for *Murrelet*

CTC = Charles T. Collins

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

RAR = Ronald A. Ryder

RCT = Robert C. Tweit

A list of recently vacated journals that were formerly covered appears in NABB 16:14-15, 1991. New abstractors for these vacancies and for other journals not covered currently are welcome.

News, Notes, Comments

Additional Comments on Black-capped Chickadee Recoveries during Spring Migration

Brooks (1987) provided a list of 13 recoveries from the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) files of Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) that were banded during spring migration and recovered in different 10' blocks in the same season and year. She noted that elapsed time between banding and recovery ranged from 10 to 73 days, that distance travelled ranged from 8 to 172 miles (13 to 275 km) and that 11 of the 13 birds moved in an ENE, NE or NNE direction; but she provided no other commentary. Stewart (1988) commented on the recoveries reported by Brooks (1987) and pointed out that they show both southward and northward movements, indicate leisurely rates of travel, and provide evidence of individuals travelling together.

Featured prominently in Stewart's discussion were two chickadees banded at the same place in Ontario on 28 April 1962, one of which was re-encountered on 11 May and the other on 18 May at a location 211 km to the ENE. Neither Stewart (1988) nor Brooks (1987), however, mentioned additional information that has been published on these two encounters (Hussell and Stamp 1965), although Brooks included the paper in a list of uncited "Literature Cited" appended to her report. The circum-

stances of these two recoveries throw additional light on the nature of spring migration of Black-capped Chickadees.

The two chickadees banded in Ontario on 28 April 1962 were captured at Point Pelee and re-encountered at Long Point. Both localities are peninsulas on the north shore of Lake Erie. At Long Point, these birds were part of an unusually large spring concentration of Black-capped Chickadees that peaked between 10 and 20 May. From 20 April to 3 June, personnel of the Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO) banded 505 Black-capped Chickadees and recorded 91 recaptures of 81 individuals. Eleven of the recaptured birds moved among three contiguous 10'-blocks on Long Point. Although not mentioned by Brooks (1987) because the records were not in the BBL files, these eleven birds met her criteria for recoveries during spring migrations, as does an additional chickadee that was banded at Point Pelee on 20 May 1962, recaptured there on 24 April 1963 and recaptured again at Long Point on 21 May 1963 (Hussell and Stamp 1965: 77).

Many of the observations of Hussell and Stamp (1965) tend to confirm the view of spring migration suggested by Stewart (1988) and I will comment on some aspects here. Unless otherwise stated, all information concerning chickadees at Long Point is taken from Hussell and Stamp (1965).

Northward and Southward Movements

Stewart (1988) pointed out that two of the 13 recoveries listed by Brooks (1987) indicated southerly movements in spring, but both of those movements were over relatively short distances (40 and 52 km). Nine of the ten movements with a northerly component (all from NNE to ENE) covered longer distances (70 to 246 km). Thus, the longer migratory movements were towards the northeastern quadrant.

Individuals Travelling Together

Stewart (1988) mentions that the two chickadees captured at Point Pelee on 28 April 1962 were re-encountered (separately) on 11 and 18 May. However, the account given by Hussell and Stamp (1965) indicates that the bird recaptured on 11 May at Long Point was trapped there again on 18 May, the same day that the second bird was recaptured. Examination of the original banding records shows that these two individuals were banded at the southern tip of Point Pelee at 0650 and 0800 (Eastern Standard Time) and were among 17 Black-capped Chickadees banded there from 0650 to 0930 on 28 April 1962 (J.O.L. Roberts, pers. comm.). At Long Point on 18 May 1962, they were captured at 0730 and 0640, respectively, at the eastern tip of the point and were among 49 chickadees captured there from 0600 to 1900 that day (unpublished LPBO records). Thus, the evidence that the birds travelled together is much stronger than Stewart indicated. No other banding was done at the tip of Point Pelee in the spring of 1962, so the banded population from that location that was available for recapture anywhere consisted of only 17 birds. It is remarkable, therefore, that two of those 17 were recaptured together and not surprising that there were no other chickadees that had been banded at Point Pelee among the 507 individuals handled at Long Point that spring.

Rate of Travel

Hussell and Stamp (1965) characterized the spring movements of Black-capped Chickadees at Long Point in 1962 as "rather slow" and "somewhat aimless." This is in agreement with Stewart's (1988) assessment that many spring movements are leisurely. He suggested that most northward migration occurs in late March and the first half of April and remarked that the Ontario recoveries showed northward movement until late April or early May. Our

data indicate that substantial migration was still in progress at Long Point until 20 May in 1962. Because of the late date of these movements, we argued that many of the birds involved must have been non-breeders in the 1962 season. Nevertheless, I would question whether it is possible to generalize about the nature of spring migration in chickadees from these observations. We noted that there was no comparable spring movement of chickadees at Long Point in the spring of 1963, and it is clear after an additional 27 years of observations at Long Point that the scale of spring migration there in 1962 was exceptional (unpublished LPBO records). In that regard, it may be significant that 5 of the 9 spring movements of more than 52 km reported by Brooks (1987) occurred in 1962 (the others were in 1952, 1969, 1981 and 1984). Southward irruptions of Black-capped Chickadees in winter are clearly erratic and perhaps there is no "typical" spring migration pattern following these incursions.

Reprints of Hussell and Stamp (1965) are still available from me for anyone interested in this topic.

Acknowledgments

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Literature Cited

- Brooks, E.W. 1987. A summary of Black-capped Chickadee recoveries during spring migration. *No. Amer. Bird Bander* 12:19-20.
- Hussell, D.J.T. and R.W. Stamp. 1965. Movements of Black-capped Chickadees at Long Point, Ontario, during the spring of 1962. *Bird-Banding* 36:71-80.
- Stewart, P.A. 1988. Comments on "A summary of Black-capped Chickadee recoveries during spring migration." *No. Amer. Bird Bander* 13:44.

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1991 NABS RESEARCH AWARDS

The North American Bluebird Society is pleased to announce the presentation of the eighth annual research grant awards. The 1991 recipients are as follows:

BLUEBIRD GRANTS

Mark T. Stanback, Hastings Natural History Reservation - The Betty H. McIlwain Award

Topic: Factors Affecting Eastern Bluebird Reproductive Success in the Southeastern United States

Dr. Harry W. Power, Rutgers University

Topic: Male Parental Investment and the Threat of Cuckoldry in Mountain Bluebirds

STUDENT GRANTS

John P. McCarty, Cornell University
The James L. Williams Award

Topic: The Interaction of Environmental Conditions and Patterns of Nestling Energetic Requirements in Determining Reproductive Success of the Tree Swallow

Linda A. Whittingham, Queens University

Topic: How Should Male Parental Care Change with Decreasing Certainty of Paternity?

GENERAL GRANTS

Dr. Ian G. Warkentin, Smithsonian Institution

Topic: Winter Ecology of Prothonotary Warblers Foraging Behavior and Habitat Use

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY RESEARCH GRANTS - 1992

The North American Bluebird Society announces the ninth annual grants in aid for ornithological research directed toward cavity nesting species of North America with emphasis on the genus *Sialia*. Presently three grants of single or multiple awards are awarded and include:

Bluebird Research Grant

Available to student, professional or individual researcher for a suitable research project focused on any of the three species of bluebird of the genus *Sialia*.

General Research Grant

Available to student, professional or individual researcher for a suitable research project focused on a North American cavity nesting species.

Student Research Grant

Available to full-time college or university students for a suitable research project focused on a North American cavity nesting species.

Further guidelines and application materials are available upon request from:

Kevin L. Berner
Research Committee Chairman
College of Agriculture and Technology
State University of New York
Cobleskill, New York 12043

Completed applications must be received by **December 2, 1991**; decisions will be announced by **January 15, 1992**.

This issue of NABB features owl sketches by :
Dave Hughes of Pottstown, PA., and we look forward to upcoming drawings and sketches. Also the production manager would like to thank Dave for his response to our appeal for line drawings and graphics.

ODE TO A CODE

or

Look What They've Done to my Song(birds)
(with apologies to Robert Service and Ogden Nash)

The computer, it seems, is an answer to dreams;
it helps us in all that we try.

But, Oh! Woe is me! How cruel it can be
when it comes to my friends that can fly.

For convenience, they say, we must now put away
all the names we so carefully learned,
and substitute newer, with letters far fewer;
just four are what each bird has earned.

The rules are quite rigorous, making a vigorous
effort to make all birds fit
in a scheme that denies to each one that flies
a nomen that's worthy of it.

Alpha codes, they are termed, and from what I
have learned,
they are most unpronounceable things
that, when spoken as words, make noises absurd
of the names of our creatures with wings.

If today you insist on preparing a list
of the birds you have seen on a trip,
why, it's RCKIs and COGOs and GCKIs and NOBOs,
and was that duck really a WHIP?

In this evil scheme, there's a bird called a WEME
and an egret who's known as a GREG;
and if redpolls had known of the name they now own,
they would never have hatched from the egg!

There is trouble, to boot, between condor and coot,
because CACO would fit both just fine.
So the latter's a CARC, you'll find him in a park,
and all CALC's are in zoos at this time.

To make matters worse (and taxonomists curse)
there are some relations implied;
but a dove's no DOVE, and to even think of
a wren as WREN makes me cry!

Now, limpkins don't LIMP, and one sounds like a wimp
when its name is transmuted to LISP;
and there's TUDUs and TUPUs and CAGUs and TUVUs,
and what in the world is a WISP?

There's a BUFF and a NOPO, an AMRO, a BOBO,
a MERL and a MELT and a PROW;
A GRAT and a KEWA, a COTE and a HEWA,
a MODO, a PISI, a SPOW.

And so now every bird is a four-letter word
and I doubt that I'll ever forgive
the computer technician who made that decision;
no, not for as long as I live.

I'll admit, there's a few, and one is the OU,
that survive this most nightmarish horror.
Their names are so short, they defeat this dumb sport:
RUFF, IIVI, OMAO, and SORA!

So you keep your new names, I refuse to play games
with the birdies that sit on my fence.
You keep your FLOWs and your HUGOs and SNOWs,
and I'll stick with names that make sense!

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A KEY TO THE CODES IN THE ODE:

RCKI = Ruby-crowned Kinglet
COGO = Common Goldeneye
GCKI = Golden-crowned Kinglet
NOBO = Northern Bobwhite
WHIP = White-cheeked Pintail
WEME = Western Meadowlark
GREG = Great Egret
HORE = Hoary Redpoll
CARC = Caribbean Coot
CALC = California Condor
LISP = Lincoln's Sparrow
TUDU = Tufted Duck
TUPU = Tufted Puffin
CAGU = California Gull
TUVU = Turkey Vulture
WISP = Wilson's Storm-Petrel
BUFF = Bufflehead
NOPO = Northern Pygmy-Owl
AMRO = American Robin
BOBO = Bobolink
MERL = Merlin
MELT = Melodious Laughing-thrush
PROW = Prothonotary Warbler
GRAT = Gray-backed Tern
KEWA = Kentucky Warbler
COTE = Common Tern
HEWA = Hermit Warbler
MODO = Mourning Dove
PISI = Pine Siskin
SPOW = Spotted Owl
FLOW = Flammulated Owl
HUGO = Hudsonian Godwit
SNOW = Snowy Owl