

1993

News, Notes, Comments

North American Bird Bander

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... 2040-56558 Banded as L-U by staff at Point Reyes Bird Observatory CA as unfledged young still in nest on 10 July 1990. Band found in scat along net trail on 19 Aug 1990. [Nest had been depredated on 12 July 1990 before nestlings fledged.]

Common Grackle 1213-19858 Banded as ASY-M by John Cummings at Denver CO on 27 Aug 1987. Found dead at Texarkana AR on 19 Feb 1991, about 1200 km SE of banding site. At least 6 years old.

Northern (Baltimore) Oriole 971-01215 Banded as AHY-F by John Gregoire at Kestrel Haven Farm, Burdett NY on 23 May 1988. Recaptured there on 20 May 1992. At least 5 years old.

House Finch 2010-05836 Banded as AHY-F by John Gregoire at Kestrel Haven Farm, Burdett NY on 30 Oct 1987. Recaptured there on 13 Apr 1992. At least 6 years old.

...2010-60296 Banded as AHY-F by Merlin Killpack at Ogden UT on 10 Jan 1985. Recaptured there on 21 Feb 1991. At least 7 years old.

Common Redpoll 1810-58522 Banded as ASY-M near Charlesbourg PQ on 10 Apr 1988. Retrapped by Jackson Whitman at McGrath AK on 1 Apr 1990, about 5100 km NW of banding site.

American Goldfinch 1830-83788 Banded as ASY-M by John Gregoire at Kestrel Haven Farm, Burdett NY on 9 May 1991. Captured by Kathy Klimkiewicz at Laurel MD on 5 Jan 1992, about 600 km SW of banding site. [The winter recovery occurred on the grounds of the Bird Banding Lab. The goldfinch was later recaptured by Gregoire back at Kestrel Haven Farm on 8 May 1992.]

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As Production Manager of *NABB*, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank **Dr. George C. West** for providing on diskettes line drawings that will appear from time to time in *NABB*. Dr. West answered my appeal for sketches and line drawings which help to enhance our publication. In the next column (WIWR) is an example of his artwork.

If you are interested in line drawings provided on computer diskettes, please contact

Dr. George C. West
Birchside Studios
P.O. Box 841
Homer, Alaska 99603
(907)235-7095

Send \$1.00 for a catalog containing over 260 images of 135 species of North American birds. Custom drawings can also be created. Files are available in most graphics formats for DOS and Windows applications.



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A Simple Field Storage Tube for Spring Scales

Mass is probably the most important measurement taken in wild birds (Dunning, J.B. *CRC Handbook of Avian Body Masses*. Boca Raton FL: CRC Press. 1992). To weigh birds in the field, most ornithologists use small spring scales (e.g. Pesola brand). Although spring scales are ruggedly constructed, they can be damaged easily under the rigorous conditions in which many field biologists work. They often attempt to use the thin plastic envelopes in which spring scales are normally sold as storage containers. However these are unsuitable for several reasons. They not only tear easily but also fail to protect the spring scales from grit, water or damage from heavier objects which are often carried in field bags. In the course of my own field work, I have developed a storage tube for use with Pesola spring scales. These lightweight tubes keep Pesolas clean and dry and are even strong enough to protect Pesolas from hammer blows. Additionally, the white PVC tubing can be color-coded or marked to indicate the size of the enclosed Pesola.

To construct a storage tube for a standard 22 cm Pesola, cut a 24 cm section of 1/2 inch PVC tubing (15 mm interior diameter, 21.5 mm exterior diameter). By using tubing that is longer than the body of the Pesola, one ensures that the clip of the scale hangs free about 1 cm. above the bottom. Mount a 1/2 inch slip cap to one end of the tubing, using PVC cement. A removeable cap is made for the other end of the tubing with a 1/2 inch PVC pipe coupling whose open end is closed with duct tape. If your Pesola is longer than 22cm (measured from the top of the tube to the bottom of the clip) increase the length of the tube accordingly.

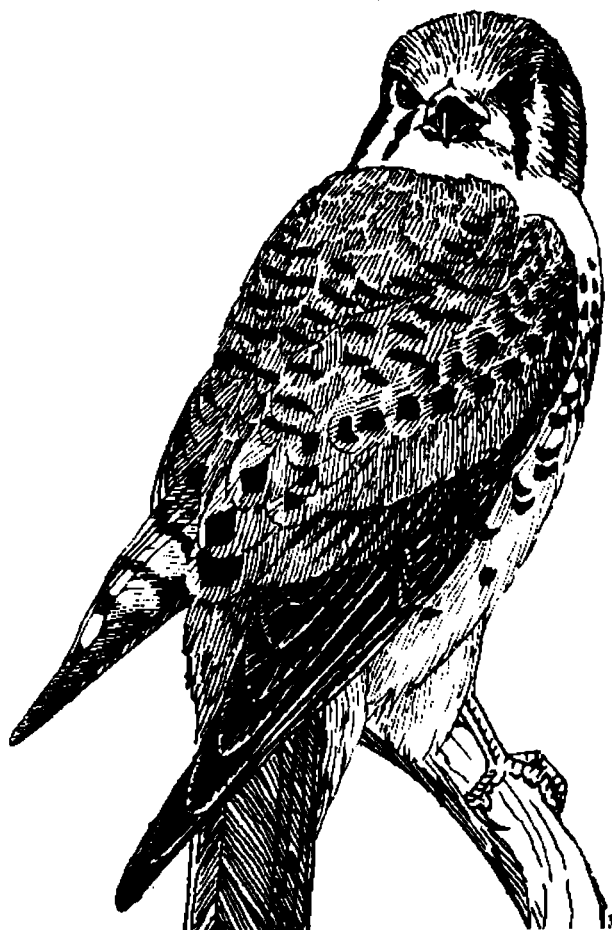
This system requires one modification to the Pesola, which comes with a ring at the top (outside diameter 23.5 mm). This must be very carefully reshaped into an oval which just fits inside the cap of the tube, but not small enough to slip into the tube. A vice or vice-grip pliers are useful for this modification.

Mark T. Stanback

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Meet The New Advertising Manager for NABB

John Gregoire, our new advertising manager, developed his love for banding and avian research while traveling worldwide during his navy career. He has taught field ornithology and was instrumental in planning and doing field work for the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas project. He formed an MOS chapter in southern Maryland and has served on the boards of several ornithological groups: Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, and the North American Bluebird Society. His banding projects have included an Eastern Bluebird dispersal study and a Bald Eagle recovery study.





NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY RESEARCH GRANTS - 1994

The North American Bluebird Society announces the tenth 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 research project focused on any of the three species of bluebird in the genus *Sialia*.

General Research Grant

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

Student Research Grant

Available to full-time college or university students for a research project focused on any 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 1, 1993; funding decisions will be announced by January 15, 1994.

1993 NABS RESEARCH AWARDS

The North American Bluebird Society is pleased to announce the presentation of the ninth annual research grant awards. The 1993 recipients are as follows:

BLUEBIRD GRANTS

Dr. Thomas C. Grubb, Jr., Ohio State University
 Topic: Assessment of the Effects of High-voltage Transmission Lines on the Biology of Eastern Bluebirds and Other Cavity-nesting Birds Breeding within the Transmission-line Electromagnetic Fields

Dr. Gary Titchison, Eastern Kentucky University
 Topic: The Functions of Singing by Male Eastern Bluebirds

STUDENT GRANTS

Elizabeth McDougall, Queen's University
 Topic: Confidence of Paternity and Paternal Care in the Eastern Bluebird

Colleen A. Barber, Queen's University
 Topic: Determinants of Extra-pair Paternity in Tree Swallows

William R. McClain, Eastern Kentucky University
 Topic: Parental Investment by Eastern Screech Owls: Roles of Males and Females in Feeding Nestlings

Susan Sharbaugh, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
 Topic: Physiological Adaptations to Overwintering in the Black-capped Chickadee: A Comparison of Subspecies

GENERAL GRANTS

Brad Semel, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation
 Topic: The Ecology of Brood Parasitism in the Wood Duck

Dr. Mark D. Reynolds, University of California, Berkeley
 Topic: The Effects of Nestbox Dispersion Patterns on Mountain Chickadee Reproductive Ecology