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## Recent Literature

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# Recent Literature

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## BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

**Saskatchewan bird banders: Harry L. Felt of Findlater, bander 007.** C.S. Houston. 1991. *Blue Jay* 49:3-6. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (Biography of Saskatchewan's second bird bander, with some recoveries. Some of his identifications were questionable.) MKM

## BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

**Net poles.** C.J. Vernon. 1991. *Safring News* 20:32-35. East London Mus., Box 11021, Southernwood 5213, South Africa (Designs for light-weight, portable aluminum poles and a stand or support for poles located in areas of hard ground.) MKM

**Blue Waxbill ring cemented to foot.** R.D. Medland. 1992. *Safring News* 21:21. Box 30370, Lilongue 3, Malawi (The leg of a previously banded waxbill was found swollen around the band, with a whitish cement [possibly birdlime] between the leg and the band. The band was removed and replaced by another on the other leg. The swollen leg was cleaned and on a subsequent recovery, it was almost back to normal size.) MKM

**A trial of coloured anodized metal bands in western Australia.** R.J. Brown and W. Brown. 1992. *Safring News* 21:32-33. RMB 253 QMS, Manjimup, Western Australia 6258, Australia (Observations of color-banded Grey Fantails and Fairy Wrens suggest that blue is the most readily identified color under all weather and light conditions, whereas red and violet could sometimes be confused and black was "useless." Anodized bands were less clear than celluloid bands. The experiment was too brief to test color fastness. A few details of Grey Fantail biology, gleaned from observations of the banded birds, are included.) MKM

**Methods for trapping Quail Finches *Ortygospiza atricollis*.** R.J. Nuttall. 1992. *Safring News* 21:55-59. Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein, 9300, South Africa (Of four methods tested for catching this open-area terrestrial species, a mistnet dropped horizontally over vegetation at or over water was the most effective. Also tested were

vertical mistnets, funnel traps and spring-hoop traps. Placing small pieces of net around small bushes is also mentioned, but was not tested.) MKM

**A comparison of three techniques for analyzing the arthropod diet of Plain Titmice and Chestnut-backed Chickadees.** P.K. Kleintjes and D.L. Dahlsten. 1992. *J. Field Ornithol.* 63:276-285. Div. Biol. Control, Univ. California, Berkeley, CA 94720 (Comparison of photography, fecal sac and gut analysis.) RCT

**Banding is infrequently associated with foot loss in Spotted Sandpipers.** J.M. Reed and L.W. Oring. 1993. *J. Field Ornithol.* 64:145-148. Dept. of Range, Wildl. & Forest, Univ. Nevada, 10000 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512 (A long-term study indicated leg loss of about 2% on the banded side. Leg loss also occurs on the unbanded side and on unbanded birds, but at a lower frequency.) RCT

**Suitability of Velcro leg tags for marking Herring and Great Black-backed Gull chicks.** P.M. Cavanagh and C.R. Groffon. 1993. *J. Field Ornithol.* 64:195-198. Dept. of Forest & Wildl. Manage., 204 Holdsworth Hall, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amhurst, MA 01003-0130. (Useful for short-term studies.) RCT

**A new multi-category classification of subcutaneous fat deposits of songbirds.** A. Kaiser. 1993. *J. Field Ornithol.* 64:246-255. Max Planck Inst. for Behav. Physiol., Vogelwarte Radolfzell, D-7760 Radolfzell, Germany (Nine main classes and four sub-classes are defined.) RCT

## IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**Subspecies and morphs of the Red-tailed Hawk.** R. Pittaway. 1993. *Ont. Birds* 11:23-29. Box 619, Minden, Ont. K0M 2K0 (Review of distinguishing features of Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, Western Red-tailed Hawk, Krider's Hawk and Harlan's Hawk, with notes on their taxonomy.) MKM

**Ageing & sexing Forest Canary *Serinus scotops*.** P. Barnard and R.J. Dowsett. 1991. *Safring News* 20:69-70. Dept. of Zool., Univ. of Namibia, P/Bag 13301, Windhoek, Namibia (No sexual dimorphism was apparent in mass or various measurements, and the authors are not yet sure at what age immatures begin to show plumage differences between sexes.) MKM

**Pintailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*.** P. Barnard. 1991. *Safring News* 20:71-76. Dept. of Zool., Univ. of Namibia, P/Bag 13301, Windhoek, Namibia (Discussion of features that distinguish age and sex within the species and that distinguish adult females from two species with similar females. Also included are data on molt, bill color, measurements and differences in males between populations from the southern Cape and from central Transvaal.) MKM

**The practiced eye. Immature night-herons.** K. Kaufman. 1988. *Am. Birds* 42:169-171. American Birds, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 (Review of reliability of features useful in distinguishing immature Black-crowned from Yellow-crowned Night-herons.) MKM

**Colouration, size and moult in the Redheaded Finch.** J.M.H. Raijmakers. 1992. *Safring News* 21:3-6. Box 5067, Vanderbijlpark, 1900, South Africa (Mensural data show greater variation in males, but considerable overlap between sexes. Contrary to some earlier statements, immature males can be distinguished from adult and immature females readily by plumage. Considerable detail on molt is included.) MKM

**Juvenile Wiretailed Swallows in Malawi: mensural and moult data and observations on use of parental nest-roost.** R.D. Medland. 1992. *Safring News* 21:11-13. Box 30370, Lilongwe 3, Malawi (State of molt of juveniles in nest roost suggests that adults allow members of at least their last two broods to share their nest roost, at least when not actually nesting.) MKM

**First occurrence of Black-chinned Hummingbird in Alabama with notes on identification.** G.D. Jackson. 1988. *Am. Birds* 42:178-179. 2220 Baneberry Dr., Birmingham, AL 35244 (Includes

brief discussion of features that distinguish female and immature Black-chinned from Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.) MKM

**Ageing & Sexing. Miombo Doublecollared Sunbird in Limbe.** S. Lane. 1992. *Safring News* 21:39-40. Box 51147, Limbe, Malawi (Measurements and plumage features based on 198 males and 114 females captured in Malawi between 1987 and 1992.) MKM

**The Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*) in the western North Atlantic.** D.S. Lee. 1988. *Am. Birds* 42:213-220. N.Carolina State Mus. of Nat. Hist., Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611 (Includes discussion on differentiating Little Shearwaters from Audubon's and Manx Shearwaters.) MKM

**Weights and duration of stays in Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* during spring migration: some data from Italy.** L. Serra, A. Magnani, and N. Baccetti. 1990. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 58:19-24. Instituto Nazionale di Biologia della Selvaggina, via Ca' Fornecetta 9, 40064 Ozzano Emilio, Italy (Among 373 Ruffs banded, adults weighed more than second-year birds of the same sex. Weights averaged considerably lower than those at most other sites, except spring weights in Kenya. Dyed birds provided information on distances Ruffs foraged from a roosting area locally, habitat use, length of stay, and longer movements to the Netherlands, Poland, and former Czechoslovakia.) MKM

**Recognizable forms. Subspecies of the Great Horned Owl.** R. Pittaway. 1993. *Ont. Birds* 11:64-69. Box 619, Minden, Ont. K0M 2K0 (Taxonomy and distinctive features of nominate *Bubo virginianus virginianus*, Snyder's *B.v. scalariventris*, Arctic *B.v. subarcticus* and Labrador *B.v. heterocnemis* races of the Great Horned Owl.) MKM

**Measurements, weights and moult of waders on the Banc D'Arguin, Mauritania, October 1988.** R. Lensink and P.L. Meininger. 1990. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 58:35-48. WIWO, c/o Belfort 7, 4336 J K Middleburg, The Netherlands (Measurements, weights and molt details are given for 789 shorebirds of one oystercatcher, three plover and

11 scolopacid species, highlighting sex and/or age differences when warranted. Changes in weight and/or molt on birds captured twice are noted. Recovery data are also given for Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Common Tern banded at various European locations and returns of Ruddy Turnstones and Slender-billed Gulls previously banded locally.) MKM

**The practiced eye. Red-naped Sapsucker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.** K. Kaufman. 1988. *Am. Birds* 42:348-350. American Birds, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 (Throat color pattern and back pattern are more reliable in distinguishing species than throat color.) MKM

**The primary moult of breeding Dunlins *Callidris alpina* in the central Taymyr in 1989.** W. Kania. 1990. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 60:17-19. Stacja Ornitologiczna IZPAN, 80-680 Gdansk 40, Poland (Molt scores and measurements of 14 Dunlins trapped on their nests are tabulated. Molting of primaries started during incubation and appears to progress more rapidly than indicated from molt data collected during migration.) MKM

**White Great Gray Owl.** R.W. Nero. 1991. *Blue Jay* 49:31. Man. Wildl. Branch, Box 14, 1945 St. James St., Winnipeg, Man. R3H 0W9 (Photographs showed the totally white plumage of an adult Great Gray Owl. It was not totally albinistic in that its eyes were the normal yellow color.) MKM

**Second albino Great Gray Owl sighted in Manitoba.** G. Holland. 1991. *Blue Jay* 49:32. 129 Burlington Way, Winnipeg, Man. R3Y 1C1 (Adult Great Gray Owl with normally colored facial disc and eyes, but otherwise totally white plumage.) MKM

**The practiced eye. Female dabbling ducks.** K. Kaufman. 1988. *Am. Birds* 42:1203-1205. American Birds, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 (Brief review, stressing bill size and shape and head patterns.) MKM

**Recognizable forms. Subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco.** R. Pittaway. 1993. *Ont. Birds* 11:101-105. Box 619, Minden, Ont. K0M 2K0 (Review of

distinguishing features of Slate-colored, Oregon, Pink-sided, White-winged, and Gray-headed Juncos.) MKM

## **NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS**

**Social hunting in broods of two and five American Kestrels after fledging.** D.E. Varland and T.M. Loughlin. 1992. *J. Raptor Res.* 26:74-80. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Iowa Coop. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Iowa Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, 11 Science II, Iowa State Univ., Ames, IA 50011 (Behavior and survival of color-banded and some radio-tagged young of two- and five-sibling broods, some artificially manipulated, were compared.) MKM

**Successful year at Last Mountain Lake Bird Banding Station.** A. Smith. 1992. *Blue Jay News* 93:11. Can. Wildl. Serv., 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4 (Almost 6000 birds of 76 species were banded at this Saskatchewan site during 1992.) MKM

**Using geographic variation to predict breeding locales of migrating Red-winged Blackbirds.** G.M. Linz, J.M. Thompson and W.J. Bleier. 1993. *Prairie Nat.* 25:127-133. U.S. Dept. Agriculture, Denver Wildl. Res. Center, N.D. Field Stn., N.D. State Univ., Fargo, ND 58105-5517 (Ulna length of 4261 males collected in the prairie provinces, Montana, the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wisconsin showed a tendency to increase with latitude and longitude, the longest being in central Alberta and western Saskatchewan and shortest in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.) MKM

**Post-hatch brood amalgamation in Lesser Scaup: female behavior and return rates, and duckling survival.** A.D. Afton. 1993. *Prairie Nat.* 25:227-235. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Louisiana Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (Time budgets of females in Manitoba marked with nasal saddles did not differ between those with single broods and those with amalgamated broods, return rates following the breeding season were similar, and duckling survival to age class II did not differ statistically.) MKM

**Seasonal population dynamics of Dark-eyed Juncos from western Oregon.** D.L. Swanson. 1992. *J. Field Ornithol.* 63:268-275. Dept. of Biol., Univ. S. Dak., 414E Clark St., Vermillion, SD 57069-2390 (Birds were captured and banded, and BBL records examined.) RCT

**Longevity records of the Bristle-thighed Curlew: an extension.** J.S. Marks. 1992. *J. Field Ornithol.* 63:309-310. Div. Biol. Sci., Univ. Montana, Missoula, MT 59812 (23 years, 10 months.) RCT

**Use of habitat and perches, causes of mortality, and time until dispersal in post-fledgling American Kestrels.** D.E. Varl, E.E. Klaas, and T.M. Loughin. 1993. *J. Field Ornithol.* 64:169-178. Iowa Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, ISU, Ames, IA 50011 (Kestrels were radio-tagged just before leaving. High mortality occurred during the first week.) RCT

**The Peregrines of Padre Island.** T. Gallagher. 1992. *Living Bird* 11(3):14-20. Cornell Lab. of Ornithol., 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850 (The Padre Island Peregrine Falcon Survey spends a month each fall and spring studying Peregrines, watching their behavior, trapping and banding them, and collecting falcon blood samples for DNA and contaminant analysis.) CIS

**Vegetative characteristics of Lesser Prairie Chicken brood foraging sites.** T.Z. Riley and C.A. Davis. 1993. *Prairie Nat.* 25:243-248. Dept. of Fish & Wildl. Sciences, New Mex. State Univ., Las Cruces, NM 88003 (Radio telemetry helped define vegetative characteristics of areas used by broods and indicated diurnal differences in brood sites.) MKM

**Apparent age-segregation of Dunlin within Bolinas Lagoon: a preliminary study.** N.D. Warnock. 1990. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 60:27-30. Wildl. & Fish. Biol., Univ. California, Davis, CA 95616-5270 (Color-banded Dunlin were classified as juvenile or adult. Proportions of the two age classes differed from one feeding area to another.) MKM

**Summer '93 — a catastrophic year for Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks.** E.T. Jones. 1993. *Alta. Nat.* 23(4):14. 43 Westbrook Dr., Edmonton, Alta. T6J 2C8 (Only ten bandable young in six nests

were found in a check of 75 Swainson's Hawk nests in southeastern Alberta in 1993, when only four of 21 Ferruginous Hawk nests were occupied. Five young Ferruginous Hawks were banded. Five young Merlins from two nests were also banded.) MKM

## **NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS**

**Bird ringing in Namibia.** C.J. Brown. 1991. *Safring News* 20:53-57. Ornithol. Sect., Ministry of Wildl., Conservation and Tourism, Private Bag 13306, Windhoek, Namibia (Brief history from 1964-1965, with tables of banding efforts, 20 most commonly banded birds and recoveries from 1980 to 1990.) MKM

**First capture dates of Lesser Honeyguides at two locations in the southwestern Cape Province.** G.D. Underhill and L.G. Underhill. 1992. *Safring News* 21:7-10. Avian Dermography Unit, Dept. of Stat. Sci., Univ. of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa (A range expansion of the Lesser Honeyguide is documented well by netting, which shows this species to be present year-round, not just in summer. A very low recapture rate suggests considerable local movement.) MKM

**Longevity of Dune Larks in the Namid Desert.** J.B. Williams. 1992. *Safring News* 21:17-18. Dept. of Physiol., College of Medicine, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85724 (Three recoveries of previously banded birds show that the only passerine able to reside permanently in the Namid Desert can live nearly six years.) MKM

**Report on the 1990-1991 ringing year.** T.B. Oatley. 1992. *Safring News* 21:22-31. Univ. of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, Cape 7700, South Africa (An Arctic Tern banded in Sweden in 1964 was recovered in South Africa in 1990, setting a European longevity record of 26 years 4 months, but still short of the 34-year North American record.) MKM

**Red-ringed Red-winged Starlings.** T. Oatley and M. Fraser. 1992. *Safring News* 21:43-49. Avian Dermographic Unit, Dept. of Statistical Sci., Univ. of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape 7700, South Africa (The first 326 starlings banded in an opportu-

nistic study produced 21 recoveries and numerous resightings, showing considerably more wandering by this species than suspected previously. Some data on body mass, molt, and life history are given.) MKM

**Habitat change by Cape Sugarbirds and Orangebreasted Sunbirds in an apparent response to fire in old mountain fynbos.** M. Fraser and L. McMahon. 1992. *Safring News* 21:51-54 Sandbands, Kenmuir Steps, Hopkirk Way, Glencairn, 7795, South Africa (A considerable increase in net captures of Orangebreasted Sunbirds and a smaller increase in Sugarbirds in early 1992 was thought to be related to fire in an area of more preferred habitat about a year earlier.) MKM

**Brood affinities by Greater Striped Swallows *Hirundo cucullata* caught at the nest.** G.H. Bradley. 1993. *Safring News* 22:3-4. 10 Koster Rd., Elma Park, Edenvale 1610, South Africa (After being banded, no parents deserted nests at any stage of the nesting cycle.) MKM

**Diet of nestling Little Swifts *Apus affinis* at a Transvaal colony.** G.H. Bradley. 1993. *Safring News* 22:11-14. 10 Koster Rd., Elma Park, Edenvale 1610, South Africa (Based on prey items carried by adults netted en route to their nests.) MKM

**Swallow ringing in the Netherlands and southern Africa: the Botswana swallow project.** B. van den Brink and T.M. van der Have. 1993. *Safring News* 22:27-30. Zomerdijsk 86, 8079 TL Noordeinde, The Netherlands (The 29 African recoveries of 311,631 swallows banded in the Netherlands are mapped. After pilot studies in Botswana and Namibia in 1988 and 1989 showed swallow roosts of about half a million birds in Botswana, a banding project was started there in the northern winter of 1992-1993, with 5761 European swallows trapped, including five banded previously in Europe (Estonia, France, Spain and Sweden) and one from Israel.) MKM

**Family ties.** N.J. Demong and S.T. Emlen. 1992. *Living Bird* 11(1):26-31. Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14850 (Studies of altruistic behavior in White-fronted Bee-eaters were conducted in the Rift Val-

ley using wing-tagged birds. Helpers at the nest increased the number of young a pair could fledge. Helpers were closely related to the breeding pair, thus ensuring indirectly their own genetic makeup.) CIS

**A shorebird banding program at Coquimbo Bay, Chile: some general observations and comments.** E. Tabilo, M. Sallaberry and J.P. Myers. 1990. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 60:34-37. Departamento de Biología y Química, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la Serena, Casillo 599, La Serena, Chile (Monofilament nets were used to capture shorebirds as part of a Panamanian Shorebird Program in which birds were color-banded. 450 birds of 22 shorebird species were studied from 1984 to 1987, including a Western Sandpiper 2000 km. farther south than known to occur previously. Resightings have provided intra- and inter-year site fidelity data.) MKM

**Ringling of waders in Spain: the current situation.** A. Barbosa and B. Asensio. 1990. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 59:30-32. Museo Nacional de Ciencia Naturales, Jose Guitierrez Abascal, 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain (24,472 shorebirds of 38 species were banded in Spain between 1957 and 1958, with 228 recoveries. Numbers for each species are tabulated for two areas and recoveries of foreign-banded birds are mapped by province, as are densities of recoveries.) MKM

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl  
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