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Books

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Genus *Phaeoprogne* is merged into *Progne*—change affects Brown-chested Martin.

Scrub Jay complex includes Florida Scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), Island Scrub-Jay (*A. insularis*) and Western Scrub-Jay (*A. californicus*).

English name of Gray-breasted Jay changed to Mexican Jay.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*), formerly a subspecies of Gray-cheeked Thrush, is now considered a distinct species.

Citrine Wagtail has been added to the main list.

English name of Brown Tree-Pipit becomes Tree Pipit.

English name of Olive Tree-Pipit becomes Olive-backed Pipit.

Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*) is separated from Lesser Antillean Saltator (*S. albicollis*).

Genus *Pitylus* is merged into *Saltator*—change affects Slate-colored Grosbeak.

Rufous-sided Towhee is split into Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) and Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow is split into Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*).

Pine Bunting is added to the main list.

English name of Common Reed-Bunting becomes Reed Bunting.

Northern Oriole is split into Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*) and Black-backed Oriole (*I. abeillei*).

Eurasian Siskin is added to the main list.

Hemignathus virens is split into Hawaii Amakihi (*H. virens*), Oahu Amakihi (*H. chloris*) and Kauai Amakihi (*H. kawaiensis*).

LITERATURE CITED

AOU. 1995. Fortieth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 112:819-830.

Books

Editor's Note:

Cornell University Press recently published a paperback version of: *Bird Trapping and Bird Banding: a Handbook for Trapping Methods all over the World*. Hans Bub. 1991. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. 328 pp. The paperback version costs \$29.95 U.S. (hard cover \$69.50 U.S.). This issues *Bander's Marketplace*.

Fred S. Schaeffer reviewed the original German version in *NABB* 6:116-117, 1981. The English "translation" (actually also a partial revision) was reviewed briefly by Robert C. Tweit in *NABB* 16:70, 1991 and more thoroughly by Dan Kramer in *NABB* 17:20-21, 1992. Thanks to Robert C. Tweit for drawing my attention to the paperback version. -M.K.M.

Raptor Conservation Today. B.-U. Meyburg and R. D. Chancellor (Editors). 1994. World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls and Pica Press, London. xvi + 799 pp. \$48.50 U.S.

This massive tome puts into print the papers presented at a 1992 conference attended by about 500 raptor specialists from most corners of the World. Although the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls served as the raptor specialist group for the former International Council for Bird Preservation, the book is not strictly about raptor conservation; rather it contains a mixture of conservation chapters and chapters concerned with the basic biology on which conservation should be based. After a preface by the editors outlining events and participation at the conference, the book begins with a "keynote address" by Claus König on owl

taxonomy, based primarily on bioacoustic studies of Neotropical pygmy- and screech-owls. Ninety-nine chapters follow, grouped into ten "parts:" population studies/long-term changes (nine chapters), rare and declining raptors (23 chapters), tropical rain forests and raptors (ten chapters), trapping, marking and radio-tagging (ten chapters), biology and conservation of large raptors (six chapters), reintroductions (six chapters), population ecology of owls (nine chapters), extirpated, rare or lesser known owls (four chapters), systematics and taxonomy (five chapters) and environmental contaminants and raptors (17 chapters). All chapters are self-contained with the literature cited at the end of each except for those of part 10, wherein the literature for all 17 chapters is combined. The book ends with 24 resolutions.

Raptor banders will find plenty of interest in this book. The ten chapters in part 4, "Trapping, marking & Radio Tagging," are of obvious interest. These include a two-chapter review by R. E. Kenward and S. S. Walls of the use of radio-tagging to study various aspects of raptor biology, four additional telemetry-based studies, a study combining color-banding and telemetry, an evaluation of a method of capturing vultures by immobilizing them with a chemical-containing dart for radio-tagging, a chapter on wing-marking Eurasian Griffons and a chapter on patagial transmitters for vultures and condors. Most of the chapters on reintroduction projects are also based on tracking marked birds. Banding, color-banding, wing-tagging and telemetry are featured in numerous other chapters, contributing to determination of distances moved (home range and seasonal movements), routes of migration, survival, breeding success, habitat use, population fluctuations, duration of post-fledging dependence on parents, age of first flights, and nest-site fidelity. Other topics of specific interest to banders include chapters on molt in Tawny Owls and a morphometric analysis of *Accipiter* species.

Although a paper on "Birds of Prey in Georgia in the 20th century" refers to the country that formerly made up a portion of the U.S.S.R. and not the state in the U.S.A., many of the chapters in this book are based in North America. These involve Turkey Vultures, California Condors, Ospreys,

Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Gyrfalcons, Eastern Screech-Owls and Burrowing Owls in Alaska, Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, the Northwest Territories, Ohio, Texas, Wisconsin and Yukon Territory. Other chapters cover North American species in other parts of their range (e.g. Northern Goshawk in Finland, Rough-legged Hawk in Bulgaria, Peregrine Falcon in Germany, Italy, and two areas of Russia and Boreal Owl in the former Czechoslovakia and central Europe). Other parts of the Americas are also represented.

I filled seven pages with errors, and as my handwriting is small and cramped, especially when not written for other people to read, I suspect that a typed list of errors would fill about twice that many. Fortunately, most of these are minor spelling, grammatical and obvious typographical errors of little consequence. Far too many of the references in the text are missing in the literature cited sections of their corresponding chapters and for numerous others dates and/or spellings of authors fail to match their corresponding citations. Proof-reading should have been far more thorough. Several papers also indicate rather clumsy (probably literal) translations into English from other languages. The authors cannot be faulted for this -indeed, we should be grateful that they made the effort -but the editors should have ensured that they were further edited for less clumsy English. More important errors are scarce. The reference to "rate of dispersion" on pp. 212 and 215 clearly should read "rate of dispersal," as dispersal refers to a process, whereas dispersion refers to the resulting pattern of distribution. The same error cropped up on pp. 479 and 488, although the authors of that paper correctly differentiated between these terms elsewhere in the same paper. The amusing reference to four Buzzards being censored (p.307) presumably alludes to being censured, or perhaps more accurately detected. The reference to "hybrids" between two races of Morepork or Boobook Owl probably should have read "intergrades," as many authorities restrict the term "hybrid" to inter-specific, not intra-specific, crosses.

Despite the annoying plethora of proof-reading lapses, this volume is well worth having and should be accessible to anybody studying or "managing" raptors and raptor populations.

Besides its contribution of considerable new information, the book provides the reader with numerous avenues into related research through its extensive list of literature citations.

Martin K. McNicholl

Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

In memoria [sic] Duncan Macintosh. D. Stiles. 1995. *Alta. Nat.* 25:43. 20 Lake Wapta Rise Southeast, Calgary, Alta. T2J 2M9 (Brief tribute to bluebird trail organizer, who banded 32,787 Mountain Bluebirds in southeastern Alberta.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Differential band wear for male and female Laughing Gulls. R. A. Dolbeer and J. L. Belant. 1994. *J. Field Ornithol.* 65:543-550. USDA, DWRC, 6100 Columbus Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870 (Band wear was highest in females with 4A bands.) RCT

Portable platforms for setting rocket nets in open-water habitats. R. R. Cox, Jr. and A. D. Afton. 1994. *J. Field Ornithol.* 65:551-555. School Forest., Wildl. & Fish., Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, LA 70803 RCT

Geographic variation in band reporting rates for Mallards based on reward bands. J. D. Nichols, R. E. Reynolds, R. J. Blohm, R. E. Trost, J. F. Hines and J. P. Bladen. 1995. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 59:697-708. NBS, Patuxent ESC, Laurel, MD 20708-4015 (Rates for males in ten harvest areas ranged 0.29-0.46; rates for females were lower.) RCT

Neck band loss rates for Lesser Snow Geese. S. R. Johnson, J. O. Schieck and G. F. Searing. 1995. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 59:747-752. LGL Ltd., 9768 Second St., Sidney, B.C. V8L 3Y8 (Loss rates were substantial.) RCT

A check on the efficiency of finding colour-ringed Kittiwakes *Rissa tridactyla*. M. P. Harris and J. Calladine. 1993. *Ring. & Migr.* 14:113-116. Inst. Terr. Ecol., Hill of Brathens, Kincardineshire AB31 4BY, U.K. (Pre-breeding checks were most efficient.) RCT

Cause and effect in population declines of migratory birds. J. H. Rappole and M. V. McDonald. 1994. *Auk* 111:652-660. Conserv. & Res. Center, Natl. Zool. Park, Smithsonian Instit., Front Royale, VA 22630 (This theoretical paper proposes several predictions that can be tested by banding. Based on the hypothesis that migrants are declining because of "breeding-ground events" and not tropical habitat destruction, 14 predictions are given and evaluated briefly. The authors see no clear evidence that any of these predictions are supported unambiguously. Several types of banding studies are suggested to test for breeding vs. winter habitat causes of declines.) JJM

A tale of two bands. D. Brewer. 1996. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 41(1):4. R.R. 1, Puslinch, Ont. N0B 2J0 (The three color bands on a Herring Gull seen along the Niagara River, Ont. in Nov. 1995 showed that it had been banded at Presqu'île Prov. Park, Ont. as an adult in May 1981, surviving to at least 18 years old and outliving its aluminum band. An Atlantic Gannet Brewer banded with a monel band in Scotland in July 1965 was recovered in Holland just under 30 years later in June 1995 with its band still intact and legible. He also notes that aluminum bands on diving ducks at Mountsberg, Ontario sometimes need replacing as early as three years after initial banding.) MKM