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## Recent Literature

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# Recent Literature

## BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society. P. Rowell. 1996. p. 39 in R. E. Daniel (Ed.). Celebrating FAN's 25th anniversary. *Alta. Nat.* Special Issue No. 3. 4 Morgan Cres., St. Albert, Alta. T8N 2E2 (Brief history and overview of Alberta's first bird observatory.) MKM

David M. Ealey. J. D. Johnson. 1996. pp. 45-46 in R. E. Daniel (Ed.). Celebrating FAN's 25th anniversary. *Alta. Nat.* Special Issue No. 3. 7109-106 St., Edmonton, Alta. T6E 4V5 (Brief biography of dipper bander.) MKM

Donald J. Stiles. P. Clayton. 1996. p. 48 in R. E. Daniel (Ed.). Celebrating FAN's 25th anniversary. *Alta. Nat.* Special Issue No. 3. 10624-153 Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T5X 5R8 (Brief biography of bluebird trail operator, who bands numerous Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds.) MKM

Doug Collister. D. [J.] Stiles. 1996. p. 50 in R. E. Daniel (Ed.). Celebrating FAN's 25th anniversary. *Alta. Nat.* Special Issue No. 3. 20 Lake Wapta Rise S.E., Calgary, Alta. T2N 2M9 (Brief biography of one of NABB's abstractors, who has banded birds in Manitoba and currently bands in southern Alberta.) MKM

Lloyd M. Lohr. V. R. Maitland and G. Greenlee. 1996. p. 53 in R. E. Daniel (Ed.). Celebrating FAN's 25th anniversary. *Alta. Nat.* Special Issue No. 3. Box 1888, Stettler, Alta. T0C 2L0 (Brief biography of Alberta raptor and bluebird bander.) MKM

Martin K. McNicholl. J. D. Johnson. 1996. pp. 56-57 in *Alta. Nat.* Special Issue No. 3. 7109-106 St., Edmonton, Alta. T6E 4V5 (Brief biography, primarily to early 1980s.) MKM

In memoriam: FAN honorary member W. Ray Salt (1905-1996). M. K. McNicholl. 1996. *Alta. Nat.* 26:45-46. 4735 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1L3 (Best known as the senior author of three editions of "Birds of Alberta," Salt undertook the first detailed study of the cloacal protuberance of passerines.) MKM

In memoriam: Ben B. Coffey, Jr. 1904-1993. J. A. Jackson. 1994. *Auk* 111:991-993. Dept. Biol. Sci., Miss. State Univ., Mississippi State, MS 39762 (A celebration of the contributions to ornithology, including bird-banding, of Ben Coffey and his wife, Lulu. Among other projects, Ben's efforts led to banding of more than 113,000 Chimney Swifts. Ben Coffey died in Memphis, Tennessee on 22 August 1993.) GAS

## BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Nightlighting minimizes investigator disturbance in bird colonies. T. D. Bowman, S. P. Thompson, C. A. Janik and L. J. Dubuc. 1994. *Colonial Waterbirds* 17:78-82. U.S.F.W.S., 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503-6199 (From 1988 to 1992, 1270 birds primarily of three species [American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant and California Gull] were caught at night and banded in Nevada with minimal disturbance to their colony. Carcasses of few banded young were found on subsequent visits, indicating that band-related mortality was low.) MKM

Sources of variation in loss rates of color bands applied to adult Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougalli*) in the western North Atlantic. J. A. Spendelov, J. Burger, I. C. T. Nisbet, J. D. Nichols, J. E. Hines, H. Hays, G. D. Commons and M. Gochfeld. 1994. *Auk* 111:881-887. U.S.F.W.S., Patuxent Wildl. Res. Center, Branch of Migrat. Bird Res., Laurel, MD 20708 (Roseate Terns were trapped in differently shaped Potter-style treadle traps or captured by hand at nests at four locations in northeastern U.S.A. Individuals were banded with four bands each: three colored bands and a uniquely numbered incoloy or stainless-steel Fish and Wildlife Service band.

Two bands were placed on each leg. Two colored band types were used, either: (1) solid color Darvic butt-ended bands or 2) solid color, bicolored or striped celluloid bands, with only one type on each bird. Most Darvic bands were heat-sealed with battery-powered cordless soldering irons.

Average annual band retention probability was 0.87. Neither heat-sealing, band age, cohort, calendar year of banding, nor colony site appeared to have significant effects on variation in band-retention probability. Celluloid band retention was lower than that of Darvic bands, but small sample sizes of celluloid bands render this comparison inconclusive. The authors present a model and suggestions for incorporating "band loss parameters" into studies of survival estimates and/or population movements.) GAS

Trapping techniques for breeding Cooper's Hawks: two modifications. R. N. Rosenfield and J. Biedfeldt. 1993. *J. Raptor Res.* 27:171-172. Dept. Biol., Univ. Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (A combination of a stuffed owl on an elevated perch near the nest and a live owl below was found effective in catching previously-banded, trap-shy Cooper's Hawks. Pre-incubation trapping was also effective in capturing previously trap-shy birds, resulting in several recaptures.) MKM

PCR-based method for sexing Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougallii*). T. J. Sabo, R. Kesseli, J. L. Halverson, I. C. T. Nisbet and J. J. Hatch. 1994. *Auk* 111:1023-1027. Dept. Biol., Univ. Massachusetts, Boston, MA 02125 (The authors present a simple method using very small tissue samples, such as single mature feathers, for identifying the sex of monomorphic bird species. Sex of individuals of any age can be determined except possibly chicks in natal down. Samples could be collected in conjunction with banding programs.) GAS

#### IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

The practiced eye/ bluebirds. K. Kaufman. 1992. *Amer. Birds* 46:159-162. *clo Audubon Field Notes*, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 (Discusses length of wing and bill, extent of white on throat and belly, extent of red on back, posture and variations with season and between races [of Eastern] as distinguishing features among the three bluebird species.) MKM

Body condition varies with migration and competition in migrant and resident South American vultures. D. A. Kirk and A. G. Gosler. 1994. *Auk* 111:933-944. Appl. Ornithol. Unit, Dept. Zool., Univ. Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, Scotland (157 migrant and 71 resident Turkey and 156 resident Black vultures in central Venezuela were trapped in 2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5 m walk-in funnel cages. Small mammal carcasses were used as bait for Turkey Vultures, while carcasses of large domestic livestock were most successful in attracting Black Vultures. Plumage differences between resident and migrant vultures and between age classes are discussed. Numerous body measurements are described. Interference competition from larger migrant vultures appeared to affect the condition of resident vultures negatively.) GAS

Observations of hybrid Sage x Sharp-tailed Grouse in Saskatchewan. D. G. Hjertaas. 1995. *Blue Jay* 53:144-147. Wildl. Branch, Sask. Environ. & Resource Manage., 3211 Albert St., Regina, Sask. S4S 5W6 (Description of plumage and behavior of hybrid grouse at two sites, including reasons for believing that a grouse previously reported as a Sage Grouse x Greater Prairie-Chicken was more likely a Sage x Sharp-tailed Grouse.) MKM

#### NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Trumpeter Swan restoration in Ontario. H. G. Lumsden. 1996. *Toronto Ornithol. Club Newsletter* 67:5-6. 144 Hillview Rd., Aurora, Ont. L4G 2M5 (Observations of swans with numbered wing tags have allowed researchers to follow the fates of released birds, showing the population to have reached 81 free-flying birds by September 1995. The tag of a female of a breeding pair near Kenora in western Ontario indicated that she had been released in Minnesota and other tags have documented movements within Ontario.) MKM

Migration monitoring at Selkirk Provincial Park, Ontario. J. B. Miles. 1996. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 41(3):2-4. Box 449, Jarvis, Ont. N0A 1J0 (1261 birds of 73 species were banded between 15 April and 31 May 1996 in the first season of a new banding station on the north

shore of Lake Erie.

A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler banded in Ohio in 1994 was the station's first recovery of a foreign band.) MKM

**Nest architecture and reproductive performance in Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*).** M. P. Lombardo. 1994. *Auk* 111:814-824. Mus. Zool., Dept. Biol., and Mich. Soc. Fellows, Univ. Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (Tree Swallow nest architecture is discussed relative to female age class, insulative qualities and reproductive performance. Types of nests are described. Swallows were trapped and banded with standard aluminum bands. Individuals were marked uniquely with a water-proof marking pen or acrylic paint on the tail, wings, forehead, throat or breast. Plumage differences between SY and ASY females are described.) GAS

**The influence of investigator disturbance on the breeding success of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*).** K. M. Brown and R. D. Morris. 1994. *Colonial Waterbirds* 17:7-17. Dept. Biol., York Univ., North York, Ont. L2S 3A1 (Study plots within two Ring-billed Gull colonies were subjected to five levels of disturbance up to the pointing of hatching. Color-banded or dyed chicks in the plots with the three highest levels of disturbance helped determine fledging success, monitor the fate of individual chicks within a brood and changes in brood size. Results indicated that carefully planned visits prior to the brooding stage did not affect clutch size distribution, colony density, hatching success or fledging rate.) MKM

**Comparative breeding success and diet of Ring-billed and Herring gulls on South Limestone Island, Georgian Bay.** J. M. Chudzik, K. D. Graham and R. D. Morris. 1994. *Colonial Waterbirds* 17:18-27. Dept. Biol. Sci., Brock Univ., St. Catharines, Ont. L2S 3A1 (Observations of chicks dyed on different body parts according to hatch order showed no relation between hatch order and chick disappearance in Herring Gulls, whereas last-hatched Ring-billed Gull chicks disappeared more frequently than their older siblings.) MKM

**Dominant Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) hens in an unconfined flock rear the most young over their lifetime.** N. Collias, E. Collias and R. I. Jennrich. 1994. *Auk* 111:863-872. Dept. Biol. & Dept. Math., Univ. Calif., Los Angeles, CA 90024 (Twenty-eight hens of one flock were studied from 1982-1988 at the San Diego Zoo. Birds were trapped by driving them into a mist net or snaring them with baited nooses on the ground. Each was banded with two colored leg bands in a unique color combination, this being duplicated on each leg for rapid identification. Number of chicks of a given hen reared to independence was related more closely to dominance among hens than either life-span or year of hatching. This study provides evidence for the principle that relatively few individuals often produce most of the young added to the next generation's breeding population.) GAS

**Responses of nesting Savannah Sparrows to fluctuations in grasshopper densities in interior Alaska.** C. K. Miller, R. L. Knight, L. C. McEwen and T. L. George. 1994. *Auk* 111:962-969. Dept. Fish. & Wildl. Biol., Colorado State Univ., Fort Collins, CO 80523 (Savannah Sparrows were studied on the Delta Agricultural Project area in interior Alaska during years of high [1990] and low [1991] grasshopper populations. Nests were discovered by flushing adults by dragging a heavy rope over grass. Nestlings were marked with "Liquid Paper" on their claws. Growth parameters measured were: (1) mass -using a 30 g Pesola scale suspended in a transparent cylindrical plastic tube to reduce wind disturbance, (2) tarsus length, and (3) length of ninth primary. Dietary and reproductive responses to high grasshopper densities observed were less than predicted and not statistically significant, suggesting that Savannah Sparrow numbers in the area were limited by factors other than food.) GAS

**Temporal and spatial patterns of breeding Brown-headed Cowbirds in the midwestern United States.** F. R. Thompson III. 1994. *Auk* 111:979-990. U.S.D.A. Forest Serv. North Central Forest Exp. Stn., 1-26 Agriculture Build., Univ. Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211 (Distinct temporal and spatial patterns in behavior and habitat use of 84 female cowbirds studied in Illinois and Missouri were revealed by radio-tagging.

Birds were trapped in walk-in funnel traps baited with millet and fitted with 2 g transmitters attached to their backs by an elastic cord harness. Transmitters had a battery life of 30 to 40 days. The transmitters showed that different cowbirds bred, fed and roosted during different time periods and in different habitats.) GAS

**Bald Eagles prey on Sandhill Cranes in Florida.** P. H. Wood, S. A. Nesbitt and A. Steffer. 1993. *J. Raptor Res.* 27:164-165. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., West Virginian Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, West Virginia Univ., Box 6125 Percival Hall, Morgantown, WV 26506-6125 (Crane legs found in the rim of an eagle nest in March 1991 included that of a Greater Sandhill Crane banded in 1986 [hatched in 1985] on its Florida winter grounds.) MKM

**1994 bluebird trail monitors' report.** J. Moore. 1995. *Pica* 15(1):30-37. 3415 Underhill Dr. NW, Calgary, Alta. T2N 4E9 (Among recaptures of banded birds in bluebird houses in the Calgary area were one six and three five-year old bluebirds and one each of eight, seven, six and five-year old Tree Swallows. One swallow banded seven years earlier as an adult (i.e. at least eight years old) was recaptured in the same box for the fourth consecutive year.) MKM

**1994 banding highlights.** D. Stiles. 1995. *Pica* 15(1):37-41. 20 Lake Wapta Rise SE, Calgary, Alta. T2J 2M9 (Details are documented for recoveries of 65 Mountain Bluebirds and 35 Tree Swallows in the Calgary area. Information includes distance moved, time between banding and recovery, and ages when banded and when recovered.) MKM

**Peregrine Falcons in Edmonton, Alberta, 1981-1994.** J. Folinsbee. 1995. *Edmonton Nat.* 23(1):13-16. c/o Edmonton Nat. Hist. Club, Box 1582, Edmonton, Alta. T5J 2N9 (Banding helped determine survival of released birds, demonstrate nest-site tenacity among years, and document movements between nesting sites.) MKM

**Notable bird banding records, 1992-1994.** E. T. Jones. 1995. *Edmonton Nat.* 23(1):28-29. 43 Westbrook Dr., Edmonton, Alta. T6J 2C8 (Details of Swainson's Hawk banded in Alberta in 1991 and recovered 3255 km away in Texas in 1992,

a Great Horned Owl found dead on a road 15 years after being banded as a nestling in Alberta, a Blue Jay found dead nine years after banding in Alberta, and a Yellow Warbler banded in Alberta in 1991 and found dead in El Salvador in 1994.) MKM

**Barn Owl nesting in Manitoba.** R. W. Nero. 1995. *Blue Jay* 53:159-166. Wildl. Branch, Box 24, 1495 St. James St., Winnipeg, Man. R3H 0W9 (Incubating female banded as part of documentation of first Manitoba nest.) MKM

**A Hooded Warbler record in the eastern Qu'Appelle Valley.** J. Pollock. 1995. *Blue Jay* 53:176. Box 353, Whitewood, Sask. S0G 5C0 (A female caught in a mist net and banded at a MAPS site provides Saskatchewan's third documented Hooded Warbler record.) MKM

**Wintering Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) in an urban area of southwestern Idaho.** L. R. Powers. 1996. *Northwest. Nat.* 77:9-13. Dept. Biol., Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, ID 83686 (Morphometric data are given for 17 Sharp-shinned Hawks captured at a feeder. Recaptures and sightings of banded birds suggest intra and inter-year winter site fidelity in southwestern Idaho.) MKM

## NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

**The dance of death/ a falcon is laughing in the jungle.** M. Tennesen. 1992. *Amer. Birds* 46:196-203. no address given. (Radio-tagged Laughing Falcons in Tikal National Park, Guatemala were found to cover a home range of 2500 ha.) MKM

**Changing status of the Laysan Albatross in Mexico.** S. N. G. Howell and S. Webb. 1992. *Amer. Birds* 46:220-223. Point Reyes Bird Observ., 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970 (A banded albatross found incubating an egg on Isla Guadalupe, Mexico in January 1988 had been found with clipped wings and tail in San Francisco, California in March 1979 and released from Midway Island, near the Hawaiian Islands in May 1979 after rehabilitation.) MKM

High survival estimates of Griffon Vultures (*Gyps fulvus fulvus*) in a reintroduced population. F. Sarrazin, C. Bagnolini, J. L. Pinna, E. Danchin and J. Colbert. 1994. *Auk* 111:853-862. Ecole Normale Supérieure, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Laboratoire d'Ecologie, CNRS URA 258, 46 rue d'Ulm, 75230, Paris Cedex 05, France (After Griffon Vultures were extirpated from the Grand Caucasses of south-central France in 1945, a reintroduction program that started in 1968 succeeded in establishing over 100 vultures there. The present study covers the years 1981-1986 during which 61 vultures were released. Each individual was marked with a metal band on one tarsus and either two plastic colored bands, an engraved Darvic white band, or a four-layer Darvic color band on the other tarsus. Plastic bands were occasionally lost and engraved Darvic bands were illegible from distances over 300 m. Adult survival rates averaged 0.987 for the reintroduced population, but a release effect lowered the average survival rate to 0.743 during the first year after release. The authors recommend using adults that have bred in captivity within the release area for reintroductions of vultures and similar species, rather than juveniles or other immatures.) GAS

Intraspecific variation in Elepaio foraging behavior in Hawaiian forests of different structure. E. A. VanderWerf. 1994. *Auk* 111:917-932. Dept. Zool., Univ. Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (Forty-eight individuals were identified in the field by a unique combination of colored leg bands, distinctive plumages, associations with known individuals and known territory boundaries. Differences among male, female and subadult plumages are discussed. Observations of foraging behavior in disturbed and undisturbed habitats indicated that undisturbed habitat was of higher quality because searching for and capturing prey was more difficult in disturbed habitat. Birds in undisturbed habitat spent less time foraging and used less energetically expensive foraging techniques. Subadults were less efficient at prey capture than adults.) GAS

Do Peregrine Falcon fledglings reach independence during peak abundance of their main prey? J. Olsen and A. Georges. 1993. *J. Raptor Res.* 27:149-153. Appl. Ecol. Res. Group, Univ. Canberra, Box 1, Belconnen, ACT 2616, Australia (Nestling Peregrine Falcons and nestlings of their four main prey species banded in southeastern Australia, along with nest record data and other count data indicated that peak fledging of prey occurred at the same time or after that of Peregrines, suggesting that abundance of young prey may be more important in the learning by young Peregrines to hunt than in providing them with food as nestlings.) MKM

Do Great Skuas *Catharacta skua* respond to changes in the nutritional needs of their chicks? J. K. Hill and K. C. Hamer. 1994. *Seabird* 16:3-7. School of Biol. & Earth Sci., Liverpool John Moores Univ., Byrom St., Liverpool L3 3AF, U.K. (Growth rates, as measured by mass, of 59 monel-banded chicks in Shetland did not differ according to whether or not they received supplemental food from the researchers. Instead, parents of chicks fed supplementary feedings spent a greater proportion of their time on the nesting territory than other parents, suggesting that supplementary feeding resulted in a decrease in foraging by parents.) MKM

Editor's note: We welcome Gregory A. Smith as our new abstractor of the *Auk*. -MKM

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl  
GAS = Gregory A. Smith

