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## Recent Literature

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# Recent Literature

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## BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

**Margaret Harris retires as B.C. Nest Records Scheme co-ordinator.** R. W. Campbell. 1997. *B.C. Nat.* 35(1):7. Box 6218, Stn. C, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5 (Brief biography of bander of numerous Mountain and Western bluebirds at boxes in the southern Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.) MKM

## BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

**Neck bands reduce survival of Canada Geese in New Jersey.** P. M. Castelli and R. E. Trost. 1996. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 60:891-898. N.J. Dept. Fish, Game & Wildl., Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241 (Neck bands reduced survival 15-20% compared with geese with only leg bands.) RCT

**A color band for Spotted Owls.** E. D. Forsman, A. B. Franklin, F. M. Oliver and P. J. Ward. 1996. *J. Field Ornithol.* 67:507-510. USFS Forestry Sci., 3200 S. Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331 (Also suitable for other large birds.) RCT

**Effects of harness-style and abdominal implanted transmitters on survival and return rates of Mallards.** E. H. Dzus and R. G. Clark. 1996. *J. Field Ornithol.* 67:549-557. Can. Wildl. Serv., 225 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4 (Females with implanted transmitters had higher survival during the brood-rearing period.) RCT

**Capture methods for Crested Caracaras.** J. L. Morrison and M. S. McGehee. 1996. *J. Field Ornithol.* 67:630-636. Dept. Wildl. Ecol. & Conserv., Box 10430, Univ. Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (Selected adults on territory were captured in Q-net traps with a live caracara as lure. No other capture techniques tried worked for adults.) RCT

**Influence of radiotransmitters on Prairie Falcons.** M. S. Vekasy, J. M. Marzluff, M. N. Kochert, R. N. Lehman and K. Steenhoff. 1996. *J. Field Ornithol.* 67:680-690. Rapt. Res. Tech. Assist. Cent., 5958 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705 (No effect on productivity was seen.) RCT

**Effects of nasal discs on nesting by Mallards.** D. W. Howerter, B. L. Joynt, R. B. Emery and T. P. Sankowski. 1997. *J. Field Ornithol.* 68:1-6. Ducks Unlimited Canada, Box 1160, Stonewall, Man. R0C 3Z0 (The only significant effect was a two-six day delay in nest initiation.) RCT

**Field techniques for studying Yellow Rails.** M. Robert and P. LaPorte. 1997. *J. Field Ornithol.* 68:56-63. Can. Wildl. Serv., Box 10100, Sante-Foy, Que. G1B 4H5 (Capture techniques are described.) RCT

**Radiotransmitters do not affect nestling feeding rates by Hooded Warblers.** D. L. Neudorff and T. E. Pitcher. 1997. *J. Field Ornithol.* 68:64-68. Dept. Biol., York Univ., 4700 Keele St., North York, Ont. M3J 1P3. RCT

**A trap for ducks using artificial nesting structures.** T. Yerkes. 1997. *J. Field Ornithol.* 68:142-149. Dept. Zool., Univ. Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 2N2. RCT

## IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

**The biometrics of invading Common Crossbills *Loxia curvirostra* in Britain during 1990-1991.** R. W. Summers, D. C. Jardine, M. Marquiss and R. Proctor. 1996. *Ring. & Migr.* 17:1-10. RSPB, Etive House, Beechwood Park, Inverness IV2 3BW, U.K. (Attempts to distinguish Common [=Red] from Scottish crossbills by bill measurements are probably not worthwhile. Some differences in bill size may be related to the type of conifers in the capture area.) RCT

**The partial pre-breeding primary moult of Common Terns *Sterna hirundo*.** K. Koopman. 1996. *Ring. & Migr.* 17:11-14. Diligencelaan 11, 9351 PR Leek, Netherlands (The reason for this molt is unclear.) RCT

**A sexing technique for California Gulls breeding at Bamforth Lake, Wyoming.** E. F. Rodriguez, P. H. Pugesk and K. L. Diem. 1996. *J. Field Ornithol.* 67:519-524. South. Sci. Cent., 700 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506 (Males were larger, with greatest differences shown in head-bill length, bill depth and tarsus length.) RCT

**Sexual size dimorphism and determination of sex in Yellow-legged Gulls.** M. Bosch. 1996. *J. Field Ornithol.* 67:534-541. Dept. d'Ecologia, Facultat de Biologia, Auda, Diagonal 645, E-08928, Barcelona, Spain (Head length correctly sexed 99.4%.) RCT

**Improved methods for ageing second-year and after-second-year Brown-headed Cowbirds.** C. P. Ortega, J. C. Ortega, S. A. Backensto and C. A. Rapp. 1996. *J. Field Ornithol.* 67:542-548. Dept. Biol., Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO 81381 (Colors of under-wing coverts and contrast with other wing feathers are useful criteria.) RCT

**The Timberline Sparrow, *Spizella (breweri) taverni*, in Alaska, with notes on breeding habitat and vocalizations.** T. J. Doyle. 1997. *West. Birds* 28:1-12. Tetlin Natl. Wildl. Ref., Box 779, Tok, AK 99780 (The breeding range is extended to Alaska. Vocalizations and plumage are described for this distinct subspecies or full species, which breeds in western Canada and Alaska, and apparently winters south of the U.S.A.) RCT

**The timing and reliability of bill corrugations for aging hummingbirds.** G. M. Yarenga, P. Pyle and G. R. Geupel. 1997. *West. Birds* 28:13-18 Point Reyes Bird Observ., 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970 (Juveniles have corrugations; some Anna's and Rufous retain these after first prebasic molt.) RCT

**Eye-colour changes in flightless ducklings of Lesser and Greater scaup *Aythya affinis* and *Aythya marila*.** C. H. Nelson. 1997. *Wildfowl* 47:194-197. 318 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg. Man. R3T 0E5 (Both species of scaup hatch with eyes of some shade of olive. At a late downy stage, all Greater and no Lesser have bluish eyes, with those of females bluer than those of males. Late-stage

duckling Lesser Scaup have yellow eyes, brighter in males than females.) MKM

**The location of pale green feathers on the wing of male King Parrots *Alisterus scapularis*.** W. T. Cooper and C. B. Frith. 1994. *Corella* 18:89-90. Box 314, Malanda, N. Queensland 4885, Australia (Contrary to its scientific name and most books on Australian birds and on parrots, pale green occurs in a line on some inner lesser coverts, middle coverts and the innermost secondary coverts, and not at all on the scapulars.) MKM

**Relative masses of primary feathers in waders.** L. G. Underhill and R. W. Summers. 1993. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 71:29-31. Avian Demography Unit, Dept. Stat. Sci., Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa (Relative masses for each of the ten primaries of Black-bellied Plover and 12 scolopacid species are tabulated, and preliminary factors suggested for converting molt scores for individual feathers to proportion of feather mass grown.) MKM

**Body mass and lipid levels of shorebirds collected in western Washington.** J. B. Buchanan, L. A. Brennan, C. T. Schick and S. G. Herman. 1996. *Northwest. Nat.* 77:51-54. Wash. Dept. Fish & Wildl., Wildl. Manage. Div., 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501 (Body mass, lipid mass and lipid percent for two plover and three scolopacid species, based on collected specimens.) MKM

**El Nino-Southern Oscillation effects on provisioning and growth in Red-tailed Tropicbirds.** E. A. Schreiber. 1994. *Colonial Waterbirds* 17:105-119. 4109 Komes Ct., Alexandria, VA 22306. (Growth rates in mass and wing length were studied on two southern Pacific Ocean islands. Chicks fed fewer and smaller meals showed slower increases in mass, but the amount of gain per gram fed also differed between islands. Wing growth rate did not decline with rate of mass growth except at one island during a year of extreme food shortage.) MKM

## NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

**Harlequin Duck research activities in British Columbia.** K. G. Wright. 1997. *B.C. Nat.* 35(1):6. 6090 Blink Bonnie Rd., West Vancouver, B.C. V7W 1V8 (Over 2000 Harlequin Ducks have been color-banded in coastal British Columbia since 1992, mostly in the Strait of Georgia between Vancouver Island and the mainland, but also in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Resightings indicate a high degree of molting site fidelity. B.C.-banded birds have been observed in Alaska, Alberta, California, Idaho, Montana and Washington.) MKM

**Banding in Ontario 1995.** W. D. McIlveen. 1996. *Ont. Bird Banding* 28:1-8. R.R. 1, Acton, Ont. L7J 2L7 (Tabulates 55181 birds of 200 species, distinct species or hybrids banded by 12 banders or bander pairs and six banding groups or bird observatories.) MKM

**Raptor banding at Holiday Beach Conservation Area, 1995.** T. W. Carpenter, A. L. Carpenter and P. Roberts. 1996. *Ont. Bird Banding* 28:9-11. Dept. Biol. Sci., Bowling Green State Univ., Bowling Green, OH 43403-0212 (The 1995 total of 933 raptors of five hawk, one harrier, one eagle and two falcon species captured [932 banded] in 1995 brought the total of diurnal raptors banded since 1989 to 3868 [3870 captured]. The 1995 total of 226 Red-tailed Hawks exceeds the cumulative total of all previous years for that species. Of eight Northern Saw-whet Owls, one had been banded previously at an as yet unknown locality. The seven new owls brought the all-time owl total to 124, of which 117 have been saw-whets.) MKM

**The 1995 Long Point Bird Observatory banding summary.** J. D. McCracken. 1996. *Ont. Bird Banding* 28:12-14. Long Point Bird Observatory, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0 (The 1995 total of 19,739 [not 197,740 as stated in the text] birds of 137 species, subspecies or hybrids banded at Long Point was close to its ten-year average. Twenty birds of 14 species were recovered at other Ontario locations and five U.S. states, most notably a "reverse spring migration" record of a Brown-headed Cowbird recovered in Pennsylvania five days after banding. Ten birds

banded elsewhere in Ontario and in four U.S. states were recovered at Long Point, including a five-year old Black-throated Blue Warbler and a ten-year old "Slate-colored" Junco.) MKM

**Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station twenty-fifth annual report: 1995.** R. Hubert and F. Hubert. 1996. *Ont. Bird Banding* 28:17-23. 10 Paulson Court, St. Thomas, Ont. N5R 1M9 (Between August and December 1995, 2516 banding hours resulted in the capture and banding of 3624 raptors of 12 raptor species in the twenty-seventh banding season of the Hawk Cliff banders. New banding highs were attained for Merlin [60 vs. previous high of 38], Peregrine Falcon [10 vs. previous high of 5] and Red-tailed Hawk [751 vs. 1973-1994 average of 280]. Captures of unusually small [as measured by wing chord] Red-tailed Hawks were unusually numerous, including very small adults. A Red-tailed Hawk banded as a nestling in 1973 and found dead in 1995 provided the second oldest Red-tail in banding office records from 1924 to January 1995.) MKM

**Mortality of Prairie Falcons during the fledging-dependence period.** M. E. McFadzen and J. M. Marzluff. 1996. *Condor* 98:791-800. Greenfolk Consult., 8210 Gantz Ave., Boise, ID 83702 (About 30% of 152 radio-marked nestlings died during the fledging period. Great Horned Owl predation was the largest single factor.) RCT

**Recoveries of Roseate and Common terns in South America.** H. Hays, J. DiCostanzo, G. Cormons, P. de Tarso Zuquim A., J. L. Xavier do Nascimento, I. de Lima Serrano do Nascimento and R. E. Bremer. 1997. *J. Field Ornithol.* 68:79-90. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Central Park W. at 79th St., New York, NY 10024 (Range and rates of migration are discussed.) RCT

**Bald Eagle longevity record from southeastern Alaska.** P. F. Schempf. 1997. *J. Field Ornithol.* 68:150-151. USFWS, Suite 240, 3000 Vintage Blvd., Juneau, AK 99801-7100 (28 years.) RCT

**Trumpeter Swan restoration in Ontario.** H. Lumsden. 1996. *Toronto Ornithol. Club Newsletter* 69:7-9. 144 Hillview Rd., Aurora, Ont. L4G 2M5 (Update to September 1996 of nesting success

and movements of swans released in Ontario, partly determined by observations of wing-tags and bands. Wing-tags or bands of some individuals have been lost.) MKM

**A summary of results for Canada Geese banded at Mountsberg, Ontario -1977-1996.** W. D. McIlveen, M. L. Wernaart and A. D. Brewer. 1996. *Ont. Bird Banding* 28:25-31. R.R. #1, Acton, Ont. L7J 2L7 (3872 Canada Geese were banded between 1980 and 1995 at or near Mountsberg, with yearly totals of 31 to 968. "Recovery" [including returns] rate averages about 11% per year, with surprisingly little difference among age groups. As most recoveries are from nearby parts of Ontario, the population seems to be rather sedentary. Some geese have been recovered in 14 U.S. states, mostly directly south of Ontario, but also as far west as South Dakota and Oklahoma. Sex distribution (slightly fewer females than males) was about the same for recoveries as for original bandings. Tables summarize "who obtained" and "present condition" codes for recoveries, but a "how obtained" table cited is missing. Average age of recovery to date is 31.6 months, with a longevity record of 16+ years.) MKM

**Commentary on the 1995 banding report.** D. Shepherd. 1996. *Ont. Bird Banding* 28:32-36. 285 Paisley St., Guelph, Ont. N1H 2P8 (Discusses overall trends in Ontario banding totals, especially effects of focused projects, apparent influxes and the availability of the new band for very small birds. After removing data likely to provide distortions, ten-year banding totals in Ontario are used to assess population trends of ten species.) MKM

**Awaiting the return of Barney and Betty, the swallows of Beaverhill.** J. M. Duxbury. 1997. *Alta. Nat.* 27:3-4. Dept. Renewable Resources, 751 General Serv. Bldg., Univ. Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2H1 (A male Barn Swallow banded as AHY in 1989 and a female banded as AHY in 1992 nested annually on the trusses over the verandah of Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1992-1996. Color bands helped determine their site and mate fidelity and follow their nesting success and number of nests per year.) MKM

**Significant observations of Trumpeter Swans in Saskatchewan.** H. H. Burgess. 1997. *Blue Jay* 55:35-40. 808 S. Kansas Ave., Weslaco, TX 78597 (Sightings of neck-collared swans indicated that birds nesting in the Cypress Hills on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border winter in the Yellowstone National Park area of Wyoming and adjacent parts of Idaho and Montana, while those nesting in eastern Saskatchewan winter in South Dakota.) MKM

**Recoveries of Mountain Bluebirds south of 49° latitude, and a recent Tree Swallow.** D. J. Stiles. 1997. *Blue Jay* 55:48-52. 20 Lake Wapta Rise SE, Calgary, Alta. T2J 2M9 (Details of recoveries in eight U.S. states of 14 Mountain Bluebirds and one Tree Swallow banded in the three Canadian prairie provinces.) MKM

**The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program third annual report (1992).** D. F. DeSante and K. M. Burton. 1994. *Bird Populations* 2:62-89. Inst. for Bird Populations, Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 (The number of contributing stations rose 165% from 65 in 1991 to 172 in 1992. Productivity, measured by capture rate of young and proportion of young in the catch, was lower in much of the eastern two-thirds of North America and Alaska in 1992 than in 1991, while productivity was higher in much of the west south of Alaska. Preliminary estimates of adult survival probability and adult capture probability are attempted, recognizing that more years of data are needed to refine them.) MKM

**Renesting intervals in Sprague's Pipit, *Anthus spragueii*.** G. C. Sutter, D. J. Sawatsky, D. M. Cooper and R. M. Brigham. 1996. *Can. Field-Nat.* 110:694-697. Dept. Biol., Univ. Regina, Regina, Sask. S4S 0A2 (Transmitters were placed on 32 nesting pipits in Saskatchewan. Several lost transmitters or were predated. Three that had failed nests built replacement nests 10-15 days after losing the first clutch. One started a new nest 21 days after the first clutch fledged.) MKM

## NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

**Winter surveys of forest-dwelling Neotropical migrant and resident birds in three regions of Cuba.** G. E. Wallace, H. Gonzalez A., M. K. McNicholl, D. Rodriguez B., R. Oviedo P., A. Llanes S., B. Sanchez O. and E. A. H. Wallace. 1996. *Condor* 98:745-768 Long Point Bird Observ., Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0 (Distribution and relative abundance were surveyed using mist nets and point counts at 18 sites.) RCT

**Population trends of resting migratory passerines at the Mettnau Peninsula, Germany: first annual report of the MRI-Program (1992 and 1993).** A. Kaiser and P. Berthold. 1994. *Bird Populations* 2:127-135. Max-Planck-Institut. for Behav. Physiol., Vogelwarte Radolfzell, D-78315 Radolfzell, Germany (Numbers of first captures at three mist netting sites were used to assess short-term and longer-term population trends. Future reports will include data from other European sites.) MKM

**Sedentariness and survival of White-browed Scrub-Wrens in the Brindabella Range, Australian Capital Territory.** S. J. Wilson. 1994. *Corella* 18:65-70. 56 Harrington Circuit, Kambah, ACT 2902, Australia (Returns and recoveries of 2000 scrub-wrens banded between 1961 and 1982 showed that adults were sedentary, with some indication of greater [but short] movements by juveniles. Although one adult was known to have lived over 14 years, mean annual survival rate was 65%, lower than the 77% reported for south-west Western Australia.) MKM

**An observation of communal breeding by Southern Whitefaces.** J. Sandbrink and D. Robinson. 1994. *Safring News* 18:88. RMB 1134, Benalla, Victoria 3672, Australia (Observations of three color-banded and one banded members of this species of "Australian warblers" or "grass-wrens" visiting a communal nest.) MKM

**Asian Wetland Bureau activities: bird migration studies in south Asia.** S. A. Hussain. 1992. *Stilt* 22:51-53, reprinted in *Wader Study Group Bull.* 71:27-29, 1993. address not indicated (From 1980 to 1992, 135,440 migrant shorebirds of 54 species

were banded at 35 sites in India. To date, 1092 [0.8%] have been recovered, mostly in Russia. Molt and longevity data are included.) MKM

**Census-efficiency for breeding Common Sandpipers *Actitis hypoleucos*.** D. W. Yalden and P. K. Holland. 1993. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 71:35-38. Dept. Environ. Biol., University, Manchester M13 9PL, U.K. (Repeated observations of color-banded sandpipers showed differences in the likelihood of detecting territories and individual birds depending on the stage of breeding.) MKM

**The migration of Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* during May 1992 in the Sivash, Ukraine.** J. van der Winden, I. I. Chernichko, T. M. van der Have, V. D. Siokhin and Y. Verkuil. 1993. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 71:41-43. Foundation Working Group Internatl. Wader & Waterfowl Res., c/o Driebergseweg 16c, 3708 JB Zeist, The Netherlands (Between 4 and 25 May, 329 Broad-billed Sandpipers were banded, 101 of which were also dyed and color-banded, helping to determine turn-over rate at an important migration site for this species.) MKM

Editor's note: I am grateful to Colleen Nelson for sending me a reprint of her scaup duckling paper, and to Kenneth G. Wright for tracking down the volume number and year of Colleen's publication. MKM

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl  
RCT = Robert C. Tweit

