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## Recent Literature

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# Recent Literature

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## BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

**In memoriam: Peter Christian Petersen, 1936-1997.** M. L. Petersen. 1997. *Iowa Bird Life* 67:105-109 + front cover photo of *Iowa Bird Life* 67(4). 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803 (Biography of 1988-1990 President of Inland Bird Banding Association, who banded 100,000+ birds of 257 species. His memberships in numerous other ornithological and naturalist organizations included as President of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and of two Audubon societies. Besides writing numerous publications himself, he also served as Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* for 25 years. Participation in Christmas bird counts, breeding bird surveys and other projects is detailed.) MKM

**Remembering Dennis Rupert (1933-1996).** S. Rupert. 1997. *Ont. Birds* 15:118-122. 1472 Lee Court, Sarnia, Ont. N7S 3L6 (Biography of prominent amateur ornithologist, who was involved in the work of the Point Pelee Bird Observatory, precursor to the Long Point Bird Observatory.) MKM

**J. F. Brenckle, an outstanding bird bander.** C. S. Houston. 1998. *S. Dak. Bird Notes* 50:5-10. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (Biography of bander of 36,000+ birds, with table of recoveries and returns, correction of two errors in recovery/return record and details of banding projects and of some of the recoveries.) MKM

**In memoriam [:] tribute to Alexander John Manson.** R. Manson. 1995. *Safring News* 24:88. c/o Safring, Univ. of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa (Brief biography of post-retirement bander of about 10,000 birds over 15 years in Zimbabwe.) MKM

**LeRoy and Myrtle Simmons: record-breaking Winnipeg bird banders.** C. S. Houston and M. I. Houston. 1998. *Blue Jay* 56:75-81. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (Biographies of couple who banded 53,527 birds of 67 species during 15 years in Manitoba, all but 71 in their small city lot in Winnipeg. These included 22,504 Common Redpolls and 830 Hoary Redpolls. A table

lists all species of which 50 or more were banded and/or that were recovered elsewhere, as well as the percent of each of these banded species recovered elsewhere. Maps show locations of encounters [birds banded by the Simmons and recovered elsewhere and birds banded elsewhere and recaptured by the Simmons] of Purple Finch, Common Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak. The text details numerous other encounters.) MKM

## BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

**Trumpeter Swan in Meade County.** L. M. Baylor. 1998. *S. Dak. Bird Notes* 50:11. 1941 Red Dale Dr., Rapid City, S.D. 57702 (A yellow neck band was observed to slide freely up and down the neck of a feeding swan.) MKM

**The Aba: a device for restraining raptors and other large birds.** T. L. Maechtle. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:66-70. Raptor Res. Cent., Boise State Univ., 1910 University Ave., Boise, ID 83725 RCT

**An easy, inexpensive means to quantify plumage coloration.** G. E. Hill. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:353-369. Dept. Zool. & Wildl. Sci., Alabama Agric. Exper. Stn., 331 Funchess Hall, Auburn Univ., Auburn, AL 36849 (Colortron is a reflective spectrophotometer, useable with a Mackintosh computer. Price \$1160 U.S.) RCT

**Trap type can bias estimates of sex ratio.** J. Domenech and J. C. Senar. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:380-385. Museu de Zoologia, Apartat Correus 593, 08080, Barcelona, Spain (Platform traps caught more male than female European Serins, possibly due to domination of the traps by males.) RCT

**Digital playback and improved trap design enhances capture of migrant Soras and Virginia Rails.** G. D. Kearns, N. B. Kwartin, D. F. Brinker, and G. M. Haramis. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:466-473. GMH: Patuxent Wildl. Res. Cent., 11410 American Holly Dr., Laurel, MD 20708 (These changes enhanced capture rate by an order of magnitude.) RCT

**Evaluation of implanted radio transmitters in pheasant chicks.** D. E. Ewing, W. R. Clark and P. A. Vohs. 1994. *J. Iowa Acad. Sci.* 101:86-90. WRC: Dept. Animal Sci., 124 Science II, Iowa State Univ., Ames, IA 50011 (Weight gain, survival and feather pecking behavior were used to assess biological effects of transmitters implanted into day-old pheasant chicks. No significant differences in weight to 23 days were found between transmitter-implanted young and control chicks in one experiment. In another comparison among control chicks, chicks receiving anesthesia only, chicks receiving transmitters only, and chicks receiving both anesthesia and transmitters, weight was higher in control birds at ages between 9 and 21 days than in treated birds, but did not differ significantly at 28 days. No effects on survival or feather pecking rates were demonstrated in either experiment. Chicks receiving both anesthesia and transmitters had difficulty walking for about one hour after surgery, but recovered thereafter.) MKM

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

**Variation in mass, wing, and culmen with age, sex, and season in the Mexican Jay.** J. L. Brown and N. Bhagabati. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:18-29. Dept. Biol. Sci., SUNY, Albany, NY 12222 (Observer variation was found for wing chord and culmen. Males are generally larger than females, and discriminate analysis separated the sexes in summer.) RCT

**Latitudinal variation in sex ratios of Belted Kingfishers.** J. F. Kelly. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:386-390. Dept. Biol., Colorado State Univ., Ft. Collins, CO 80623 (BBL data indicated that in fall/winter more males than females were found in northern latitudes.) RCT

**The practiced eye[:] Lucifer Hummingbird identification.** K. Kaufman. 1992. *Amer. Birds* 46:491-494. 7934 Sabino Sunrise Circle, Tucson, AZ 85750 (The curve of the bill is more variable than sometimes indicated, and usually straight bills of some other hummingbirds that overlap its range sometimes show some curvature. The buff belly of the female is sometimes less extensive than indicated in most field guides, and can be confused with slight buff of some female Rufous, pollen on

bellies of other hummingbird species or even reflection from red hummingbird feeders! The distinct fork usually illustrated in field guides is rarely visible on birds in the field. Hunched posture of perched birds and lack of flicking of tail by feeding birds help distinguish Lucifer from some other hummingbird species.) MKM

**European Marsh Warblers on the Cape Peninsula.** M. Fraser and L. McMahon. 1995. *Safring News* 24:75-76. Sandbanks, Kenmuir Steps, Glencairn 7995, South Africa. (Comparison of molt schedule, wing lengths and masses of European and African marsh warblers, *Acrocephalus palustris* and *A. baeticatus*.) MKM

**Perforations in feathers of *Chrysococcyx* species.** H. Bouwman. 1995. *Safring News* 24:87. Plant Protection Res. Inst., Agricultural Res. Council, P Bag X134, Pretoria 0001 (Perforations of unknown cause were found in feathers of two species of cuckoo, including in a replacement feather of one bird after it molted one of the perforated feathers.) MKM

#### **NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS**

**The Golden Eagle in Virginia: analysis of a century of records.** D. W. Johnston. 1994. *Raven* 65:19-37. 5219 Concordia St., Fairfax, VA 22032 (Thorough review of historical records and current status, including a list of ten bandings since 1973. One Virginia-banded eagle was recovered five years later in New York. Three Golden Eagles banded elsewhere [New Jersey, North Carolina and Tennessee] have been recovered in Virginia.) MKM

**Northern Michigan Great Gray Owl monitoring project.** G. J. Fischer. *Mich. Birds & Nat. Hist.* 2:62-76. no address given. (Weights, foot pad lengths, wingcords and tail lengths are listed for 52 Great Gray Owls captured in the "upper peninsula" of Michigan 1991-1993. Color marking and radio telemetry provided data on returns between years and on local movements within a given winter. The capture of several healthy adults refutes an earlier notion that the only Great Gray Owls reaching the area are immature or lost.) MKM

**Records of banded American Black Duck in Utah.** T. D. Pratt. 1995. *Utah Birds* 11:40. 4886 S. 1710 E., Salt Lake City, UT 84117 (A female banded in Massachusetts in 1941 was shot 6 1/2 years later in Utah. Another black duck banded in Tennessee [year not stated] was recovered in Utah in 1963.) MKM

**Status of American Black Duck in Utah.** S. Hedges. 1995. *Utah Birds* 11:41-44. Box 1042, Cedar City, UT 84721-1042 (Attempted introductions in Utah and other western states and provinces, possible escapes and possible Mallard X American Black Duck hybrids all make American Black Duck records questionable unless bands or other markers allow their origins to be determined. The only banding recoveries of this species in Utah to date have been the two documented by Pratt in the preceding note.) MKM

**Longevity and site fidelity of Florida Grasshopper Sparrows.** T. F. Dean, M. F. Delany, E. W. Chapman, and P. D. Vickery. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:51-54. OLA DET 1, 3470G/CEVN, 29 South Blvd., Avon Park AF Range, FL 33825-5700 (Male Grasshopper Sparrows were recaptured at age at least 6.6 years. The population studied is sedentary.) RCT

**Homing ability of breeding male Tree Swallows.** C. A. Barber and R. J. Robertson. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:444-449. Dept. Biol., Queen's Univ., Kingston, Ont. K7L 3N6 (Some males released 125 or 250 km from their breeding boxes returned quickly.) RCT

**Site fidelity of wintering Henslow's Sparrows.** S. M. Plentovich, N. R. Holler, and G. E. Hill. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:486-490. Dept. Zool., 331 Funchess Hall, Auburn Univ., Auburn, AL 36849 (Birds were recaptured during the winter of capture, but not in a succeeding winter.) RCT

**The 1996 Piping Plover census in Ontario.** L. E. Heyens. 1998. *Ont. Birds* 16:26-31. Ont. Ministry Nat. Resources, Box 5080, Kenora, Ont. P9N 3X9 (A color-banded Piping Plover seen near Lake Simcoe, Ontario, was apparently banded as a chick in Michigan.) MKM

**Whooping Cranes nesting in Alberta.** B. Johns. 1998. *Blue Jay* 56:31-33. Can. Wildl. Serv., 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4 (Color-banding has helped document movements and fates of some adult Whooping Cranes nesting at seven sites in the Alberta portion of Wood Buffalo National Park.) MKM

**North America's largest shorebird -have you seen it?** R. D. Dickson and G. W. Beyersbergen. 1998. *Blue Jay* 56:82-84. #303, 9510-79 St. N.W., Edmonton, Alta. T6C 2R9 (The only wintering ground recovery of a Canadian-breeding Long-billed Curlew to date was of a bird banded in Alberta in 1941 and recovered in Texas in 1944. Other Alberta adults have been banded at their nests recently.) MKM

**Ferruginous Hawk banding in Saskatchewan.** C. S. Houston, W. C. Harris and A. Schmidt. 1988. *Blue Jay* 56:92-94. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (The authors and their colleagues have banded 3601 nestlings in Saskatchewan, with 94 recoveries reported to the end of 1994. Details of recovery method, longevity rates and recovery locations are summarized. As with W. Ray Salt's recoveries from Alberta in the 1930s, most recoveries have been from east of the Rocky Mountains, although one was recovered in California and one on the Gulf of California in Sonora.) MKM

**Swainson's Hawk productivity and five-young nest.** C. S. Houston. 1998. *Blue Jay* 56:151-155. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (From 1972 to 1996, 950 young were banded as part of a study of 729 nests in Saskatchewan. A table indicates number of nests checked per year, number of successful nests, number of young banded, number of nests that failed, ratio of young per successful nest and percentage of nests successful. The percentage of nests raising one, two, three and four young to banding age is graphed, and possible reasons for trends discussed. A nest in which five young were raised to banding age appears to be a first.) MKM

## NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

**Latitudinal differences in sex ratios among nonbreeding Western Sandpipers in Puerto Rico and Ecuador.** B. A. Harrington and B. Haase. 1994. *Southwest. Nat.* 39:188-189. Manomet Observ. Conserv. Sci., Manomet, MA 02345 (Males constituted about 40% of the Western Sandpipers caught in mist nets in Puerto Rico, but only 8% of those caught in Ecuador, providing support for a previous hypothesis by Page et al. that females of this species tend to winter farther south than males.) MKM

**Winter bird communities on San Salvador, Bahamas.** M. T. Murphy, K. L. Cornell, and K. L. Murphy. 1998. *J. Field Ornithol.* 69:402-414. Dept. Biol., Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY 13820 (Birds captured in mist nets.) RCT

**New Zealand-banded Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) breeds in the Seychelles.** R. O. Cossee. 1996. *Notornis* 43:280. New Zealand Natl. Band. Scheme, Dept. Conservation, Box 10420, Wellington, New Zealand (Most of the 14,600+ Sooty Terns banded in New Zealand to date were banded in the 1960s, with 145 recovered on Raoul Island, the banding site of many. A breeding Sooty Tern captured on Aride Island, in the Seychelles, Indian Ocean on 30 June 1995 had been banded on Raoul Island, New Zealand, on 19 December 1961, providing a longevity record of 33 years, 6 months. Also mentioned are a 24-year old Caspian Tern and 26-year old White-fronted Tern.) MKM

**Selected recoveries report to Safring: January 1995 - June 1995.** T. B. Oatley. 1995. *Safring News* 24:68-75. Safring, Univ. of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa (Details of 90 recoveries of 45 species. Of particular interest to North Americans is a longevity record of 257 months [21.4 years] for a Red Knot banded in 1973 in South Africa and shot in Spain in 1995. Recoveries of other species that also occur in North America are given for Wandering Albatross, European Storm-Petrel, Curlew Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Barn Swallow, and European Starling.) MKM

**Breeding productivity of Curlew Sandpipers, 1990-1994.** L. G. Underhill and T. B. Oatley. 1995. *Safring News* 24:77-78. Avian Demography Unit, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa (Percentage of first-year birds among Curlew Sandpipers caught each year in South Africa were used to assess productivity during the previous breeding season in Siberia.) MKM

**Botswana swallow project for 1994-1995.** B. van den Brink. 1995. *Safring News* 24:81-82. Zomerdijs 86, 8079 TL Noordeinde, The Netherlands (Although drought reduced the numbers of insects and thereby the numbers of Barn Swallows wintering in the vicinity of the Boteti River, Botswana, in December 1994-January 1995, expedition members banded 2594 swallows there, and caught four banded there in the previous two years. Over three years, 19,584 birds were banded, of which 18,424 were Barn Swallows.) MKM

**Forced removals, abuse of minors and violent death on the Cape Peninsula.** M. Fraser and L. McMahon. 1995. *Safring News* 24:82-83. Sandbanks, Kenmuir Steps, Glencairn 7995, South Africa (The female of a pair of Red-winged Starlings that adopted a brood being reared by humans had been banded nearby. The pair were also feeding their own brood at the same time. She was later found with a different mate, and eventually found electrocuted. One of the adopted chicks was found dead, probably shot, 21 months after fledging.) MKM

Note: Thanks to William R. Clark, Roderick O. Cossee, Brian A. Harrington, Janet Hinshaw of the Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Library of the Wilson Ornithological Society, David W. Johnston, Mary Lou Peterson and Tom D. Pratt for copies of some of the publications abstracted in this issue and to L. M. Baylor for a copy of *South Dakota Bird Notes* 50(1) 1998. -M.K.M.

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

