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Recent Literature

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Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Saskatchewan bird banders: J. A. Briggs of Regina. C. S. Houston and M. I. Houston. 2003. *Blue Jay* 61:138-139. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7J 0J8 (Brief biography of bander of 1075 birds of 24 species at numerous Saskatchewan sites between 1925 and 1943 plus six birds in 1948. Briggs banded while inspecting railway tracks on a hand-pumped "jigger," stopping at numerous Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker and Brewer's Blackbird nests to band the young. Notes on recoveries of Northern Shoveler, Northern Flicker, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Brewer's Blackbird, and Common Grackle are included.) MKM

Fred W. Lahrman, 1921-2003. L. Scott. 2003. *Blue Jay* 61:186-187. Box 995, Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0 (Brief biography of well-rounded artist-naturalist best known for his museum dioramas, but also a bird-bander and accomplished nature photographer.) MKM

Bill Horseman, 1942-2003. C. S. Houston. 2003. *Blue Jay* 61:188-189. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7J 0J8 (Brief biography of one of Houston's long-time Great Horned Owl banding assistants. Houston attributes Horseman's proficiency at finding nests and climbing to them with launching Houston's "lifetime Great Horned Owl banding program" when Horseman was only 15. The pair managed to band 40 owl nestlings at 17 nests in one day, helping to reach a total of 67 young banded in their second of many years of effort.) MKM

In memoriam [:] F. J. Hartley Fredeen, 1920-2003. C. S. Houston and J. F. Roy. 2003. *Blue Jay* 61:231-232. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7J 0J8 (Brief biography of bander of 1762 birds of 74 species from 1938 to 1943 in Saskatchewan. One of 29 nestling Swainson's Hawk nestlings that he banded was the first North American-banded Swainson's Hawk recovered in Argentina.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

A comparison of flow cytometry and the polymerase chain reaction as sexing techniques for the Wood Thrush. R. M. Underwood, R. J. Crockett, R. R. Roth, C. L. Keeler, Jr., and M. S. Parcells. 2002. *J. Field Ornithol.* 73:239-245. Dept. Entomol. & Applied Ecol., College Agr. & Nat Resources, Univ. Delaware, Newark, DE 19717 (The polymerase chain reaction method, done on blood-samples from known-sex individuals, gave highly accurate results. Flow cytometry was less accurate.) RCT

The use of decoys as a research tool for attracting wading birds. G. E. Crozier and D. F. Gawlik. 2003. *J. Field Ornithol.* 73:53-58. Everglades Div., South Florida Water Manage. Dist., 3301 Gun Club Rd., West Palm Beach, FL 33406 (Commercially available plastic flamingos and Tyvek bag decoys were more effective than a two-dimensional type or no decoy. White birds were attracted, while dark birds were not.) RCT

Errors associated with using colored leg bands to identify wild birds. J. L. Milligan, A. K. Davis, and S. M. Altizer. 2003. *J. Field Ornithol.* 74:111-118. Dept. Environ. Studies, Emory Univ., Suite E-510, 400 Dowman Dr., Atlanta, GA 30322 (Using bird models under laboratory conditions, trained observers made errors in 5% of observations, while the error rate of untrained persons was 16%. The most common error was reversing bands between legs. The authors suggest that error rates would be higher in the field.) RCT

Evaluation of nasal discs and colored leg bands as markers for Harlequin Ducks. H. M. Regehr and M. S. Rodway. 2003. *J. Field Ornithol.* 74:129-135. Dept. Biol. Sci., Simon Fraser Univ., Burnaby, BC. V5A 1S6 (Nasal disc data predict 50% loss by 396 days. Nasal disc markers provided more resightings than leg bands. Effects of nasal discs on male pairing success suggested a population with more males than females, who choose mates on the basis of male appearance) RCT

Effects of subcutaneous transmitter implants on behavior, growth, energetics, and survival of Common Loon chicks. K. P. Kenow, M. W. Meyer, F. Fournier, W. H. Karasov, A. Elfessi, and S. Gutreuter. 2003. *J. Field Ornithol.* 74:179-186. U.S. Geol. Surv., 2630 Famta Reed Rd., La Crosse, WI 54603 (No adverse effects of the 0.76 g transmitters were observed by the authors.) RCT

Trapping White Ibises with rocket nets and mist nets in the Florida Everglades. J. A. Heath and P. C. Frederick. 2003. *J. Field Ornithol.* 74:187-192. Dept. Wildl. Ecol. & Conserv., Univ. Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (Birds were lured to traps by plastic flamingo decoys. The authors preferred mist nets to rocket nets for ease of set-up, equipment involved, shorter processing time for birds, and flexibility.) RCT

Diurnal tape-luring of wintering Chiffchaffs results in samples with biased sex ratios. M. Lecoq and P. Catry. 2003. *J. Field Ornithol.* 74:230-232. Rua Barado de Sabrosa, 29-1º, 1900-087 Lisboa, Portugal (Tape-luring with spring song recordings produced mist-netted samples of Chiffchaffs with a significantly larger proportion of male birds.) RCT

Effects of investigator disturbance on the reproductive behavior and success of Black Terns. D. A. Shealer and J. A. Haverland. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:15-23. Dept. Biol., Loras College, Dubuque, IA 52004-0178 (None of 23 adult Black Terns trapped on nests in Wisconsin deserted their nests, but those trapped before seven days of incubation stayed away from the nest longer than those trapped later in the incubation period. Hatching and fledging rates of trapped/banded birds appeared not to differ from birds that were not captured.) MKM

Performance of implantable satellite transmitters in diving seabirds. S. A. Hatch, P. M. Meyers, D. E. Mulgahy, and D. C. Douglas. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:84-94. U.S. Geol. Surv., Alaska Biol. Sci. Cent., 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503 (Surgical implantation of 51 transmitters into Common and Thick-billed murres and Tufted Puffins in Alaska provided considerable data on movements by these birds, but apparently increased mortality, especially 11-20 days after

release. Earlier than expected deterioration of lithium batteries also reduced transmitter performance.) MKM

Ring wear in Social Weavers *Philetairus socius*. R. Nuttall. 2001. *Afring News* 30:64-65. Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa. (Recaptures of 24 weavers indicated considerable abrasion on aluminum bands within two or three years, presumably while birds feed on sandy ground. In contrast, a stainless steel band on one banded bird recaptured almost four years after banding was still in good condition.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

An apparent hybrid Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) x Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) in Saanichton, British Columbia. B. Whittington. 2000. *B.C. Birds* 10:16-17. 347 Millstream Lake Rd., Victoria, BC. V9B 6H5 (Detailed description and photographs of apparent hybrid on southern Vancouver Island, with review of other known swallow hybrids.) MKM

Use of mutually exclusive foraging areas by adjacent colonies of Blue-eyed Shags (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*) at South Georgia. S. Wanless and M. P. Harris. 1993. *Colonial Waterbirds* 16:176-182. Inst. Terr. Ecol., Banchory Res. Stn., Hill of Brathens, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB31 4BY, UK. (Including data on masses of known-aged chicks.) MKM

Featured photo-ageing and molt in non-breeding Black-bellied Plovers. S. N. G. Howell and P. Pyle. 2002. *West. Birds* 33:268-270. Point Reyes Bird Observ., 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970 (Detailed description based on extensive experience.) RCT

Dark-morph individuals of *Egretta* spp. in Israel. S. Ashkenazi. 1993. *Colonial Waterbirds* 16:202-207. Ecol. & Nature Conserv., Box 1057, Rosh Pina 12000, Israel (Dark morph *Egretta gularis* in Israel occur in two morphologically [and possibly taxonomically] distinct populations. Limited data are given on measurements of the two morphs. One tagged individual was observed 50 times over 11 years in Israel's Huleh Valley, while

other individuals tagged or banded in Israel have been sighted at other sites in Israel, Egypt, and Sudan.) MKM

Identifying Hutton's Vireo. K. Kaufman. 1993. *Amer. Birds* 47:460-462. 7934 Sabino Sunrise Circle, Tucson, AZ 85750 (Occasional wing flicking by Hutton's Vireos precludes this frequent Ruby-crowned Kinglet behavioral trait as a reliable feature for distinguishing between these species. Bill size, distinctness of the anterior wing bar, positioning of black between the wing bars (instead of behind the posterior one), and toe color are more reliable distinguishing features. Differences between Hutton's Vireo and *Empidonax* flycatchers are also summarized and illustrated.) MKM

Moult in Scalyfeathered Finches *Sporopipes squamifrons* in southeast Botswana. S. J. Tyler. 2001. *Afring News* 30:56-59. c/o Birdlife Botswana, Private Bag 00100, Gaborone, Botswana (Data on molt of secondaries and primaries were recorded on 283 Scalyfeathered Finches caught between Jul 1996 and Nov 2000. Data on 25 retrapped birds indicated that molt was irregular or interrupted in several. Suspended and irregular molt was also shown by 12 Greenwinged Pytilias and an unspecified number of Blackthroated Canaries.) MKM

Biometrics and moult of the Thickbilled Weaver in Pietermaritzburg. M. Brown, C. Symes, and C. Downs. 2001. *Afring News* 30:60-63. School of Botany & Zool., Univ. Natal, P/Bag X01, Scottsville 3209, Natal (Data on mass, wing, tail, and culmen were collected on 48 males, 98 females, and 26 unsexed birds caught in lovebird aviaries. Data on molt and recaptures are included.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2002. W. J. Crins. 2003. *Ont. Birds* 21:54-76. 170 Middlefield Rd., Peterborough, ON. K9J 8G1 (Banding helped document Common Ground-Dove and Sage Thrasher at Thunder Cape Bird Observatory.) MKM

Banding Great Horned Owls in farmland in the Weyburn area in 2003. M. Bailey. 2003. *Blue Jay*

41:140-142. 102-1833 Crocus Ave., Weyburn, SK (An unspecified number of owls were banded between 11 May and 6 Jun at 17 nests.) MKM

Survival and recovery of Mallards and Gadwalls banded in eastern Washington, 1981-1998. J. H. Guidice. 2003. *J. Field Ornithol.* 74:1-11. Dept. Fish & Wildl. Res., Univ. Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844 (An extensive analysis of hunter-recovered bands. The proportion of Mallards recovered in the Columbia River basin of central Washington declined over the study period, while recoveries in California increased markedly.) RCT

More United States Tree Swallow recoveries. D. J. Stiles and M. I. Houston. 2003. *Blue Jay* 61:201-203. 20 Lake Wapta Rise SE, Calgary, AB T2J 2M9 (An adult female swallow caught near Pincher Creek, AB, had been at the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, CA. A surprise capture at the same refuge was a Tree Swallow that had been banded two years earlier as a nestling near Cochrane, AB. A nestling banded near Dundurn, SK, was recovered two years later at Vermilion Station, MI. Two swallows found dead near Lake Charles, LA, in March 2002 had been banded as nestlings on the Canadian prairies, one near Olds, AB, in 1997 and the other near Pike Lake, SK, in 2001.) MKM

Wing-tagging Turkey Vultures. C. S. Houston and B. Terry. 2003. *Blue Jay* 61:204-209. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7J 0J8. During 2003, 14 patagial tags were placed on young at nine nest sites in abandoned buildings in southern and central Saskatchewan. Neighboring farmers provided subsequent sightings of tagged young from eight of these nests.) MKM

Letters from Matador. D. Zazelenchuk. 2003. *Blue Jay* 61:219 & 222-223. Box 39, Kyle, SK S0L 1T0 (Notes on some of 25 Northern Saw-whet Owls caught and banded near Matador, SK, during fall 2003.) MKM

Movements of juvenile American White Pelicans from breeding colonies in California and Nevada. J.O. Keith and E.J. O'Neill. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:33-37. 8027 E. Phillips Circle, Englewood, CO 80112 (Observations of young pelicans color-dyed and patagial-tagged at three breeding colonies helped determine dispersal

distances from each colony in relation to year and possibly weather and habitat conditions.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Manx Shearwater: the possible first Ontario record? D. Brewer. 2003. *Ont. Birds* 21:98-99. R.R. 1, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0 (Chick banded in Northern Ireland in Sep 1991 found in emaciated condition in Michigan slightly west of St. Clair River in Aug 2000, when nine years old, approximately one year before first confirmed Ontario record.) MKM

In search of the Ivory Gull. K. Krajik. 2003. *Science* 303:1840-1842. address not indicated. Little is known about this Arctic bird. A brief burst of banding in the 1980s with virtually no follow-up provided estimates of the gull's population, but little else. Their numbers have plummeted since at least 2000 (down by 90% in 20 years) as verified by ground observations. In 2003 "...as elsewhere this year, the gulls were nowhere to be found." Band recoveries now are "...almost all by hunters in west Greenland." This thoughtful short article provides plenty of questions but few answers.) WDL

Colonial waterbirds as indicators of environmental change. J. A. Kushlan. 1993. *Colonial Waterbirds* 16:223-251. Box 429, Annapolis, MD 21404-0429 (Notes previous suggestion by Oatley et al. that banding recovery rates of Cape Gannets in South Africa may indicate environmental conditions.) MKM

Sanderlings in Iceland. J. R. Wilson. 1997. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 82:44-45. c/o Royal Norwegian Embassy, 17 Hunta St., Yarralumia, ACT, Australia (Sanderlings banded in Iceland have been recovered elsewhere in Iceland, Great Britain, and Ghana. Sanderlings banded in Great Britain in May have been recovered in Russia and South Africa.) MKM

The N. W. Australia wader study expedition in March and April 1996. C. Minton, H. Sitters, and R. Jessop. 1997. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 82:51-55. 165 Dalgetty Rd., Beaumans, Victoria 3193, Australia (In the largest of 17 expeditions to the Broome/80 Mile/Port Hedland area of Australia, 83 people from 16 countries participated in capturing

8,512 birds [8,135 shorebirds]. Most birds were caught in 40 cannon-netting and five mist-netting sessions. For the first time, no Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were caught, but numbers of three species [Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Red-necked Stint] reached new highs. Totals of 43 shorebird species are tabulated for each of three study areas in 1996, along with the total 1996 and all-time 1981-1996 totals for each species. Of the 8,135 shorebirds caught in 1996, 1,075 [13%] were recaptures of birds banded elsewhere in Australia or overseas from a few days to 14.5 years earlier. All shorebirds banded were also fitted with yellow flags, a practice that has increased reporting rates within Australia 10.7 times and outside Australia 3.4 times since it was initiated in 1992.) MKM

Eider females and broods from neighboring colonies use segregated local feeding areas. M. Ost and M. Kilpi. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:24-32. Dept. Ecol. & Systematics, Zool. Lab., PB 17, FIN-00014, Univ. Helsinki, Finland (Nesting females in southwest Finland were trapped with hand-nets on nests near the end of incubation, banded and tagged with temporary flags of distinct color combinations. Observations of flagged females helped document distances moved and home ranges in relation to nesting success, size of brood and proximity of significant food sources.) MKM

Sociable Weavers drink water. T.O. Osborne and L.Y. Osborne. 2001. *Afring News* 30:54-55. Box 22, Okaukuejo, Via Outjo 9000, Namibia (Mist-netting of numerous Sociable Weavers at a water hole in Namibia suggested that the reported rarity of their drinking water was exaggerated. This led to a major color-banding project at weaver colonies in the area, demonstrating regular movements by this species from colony sites to waterholes 0.96 to 3.68 km away.) MKM

WDL = William D. (Bill) Loughman
MKM = Martin K. McNicholl
RCT = Robert C. Tweit

Note: The authors of the *Condor* paper on Ruby-throated Hummingbirds abstracted at the top of the first column of *NABB* 28:127, 2003 should read B. Hilton, Jr. and M. W. Miller, not M. W. Weller. Thanks to Bill Hilton, Jr. for sending the correction to Kay Loughman and Bob Pantle and to Kay and Bob for forwarding it along.