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Recent Literature

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RECENT LITERATURE

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Order of Australia – Mr Stephen James Wilson. B. Baker. 1998. *Corella* 22:21. Box 249, Mawson, Australian Capital Territory 2607, Australia (Brief biographical note of one of Australia's banding pioneers, whose interest was kindled by that of his two sons in the 1960s, then exceeded theirs. He was one of the founders and an early president of the Australian Bird Study Association, originator of their mist net service, mentor of several other banders and author of more than 40 bird publications.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Some notes on using walk-in traps. W. Meissner. 1998. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 86:33-35. Dept. Vert. Ecol. & Zool., Univ. Gdansk, Al. Legionow 9, 80-441, Gdansk, Poland (By 1997, the Waterbird Research Group KULING had banded over 30,000 shorebirds caught in walk-in traps along the southern Baltic coast. Two of the most successful trap designs are described, illustrated, and discussed as to most appropriate material, dimensions, entrance type, portability and time of day in relation to species, tidal regime and other factors. They have found these traps more effective on shorter-legged than longer-legged shorebirds and for juveniles than adults. Problems posed by floating vegetation and discovery of the trapped birds by predators are mentioned. In spite of some disadvantages, the author considers walk-in traps safer than mist nets for catching shorebirds.) MKM

Wear rate of aluminium and stainless steel leg bands of Silver Gulls. R. D. Wooller and S. J. Wooller. 1998. *Corella* 22:29-31. Biol. Sci., Murdoch Univ., Western Australia 6150, Australia (Original weights of bands were compared with those on recovered birds with the same band series. Bands of both materials lost weight at a constant rate over time, but aluminum bands wore faster than those of stainless steel.) MKM

An alternative method for applying shearwater bands (size 16 SS). S. G. Lane. 1998. *Corella* 22:32-33. 66 Fairview Rd., Moonee via Coffs Harbour, New South Wales 2450, Australia (Step-by-step method, with illustrations, of applying large bands safely, based on the author's experience of banding over 7,000 shearwaters.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Subspecies of the Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus* (Aves: Charadriiformes). R. C. Banks. 1986. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 99:149-159. Sect. Biol. Surv., Denver Wildl. Res. Center, U. S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Natl. Mus. Nat. Hist., Washington, DC 20560 (Mantle color and size indicate that Glaucous Gulls are divisible into four subspecies, rather than being monotypic or divisible into three subspecies. The mantles of Alaskan, European, and western Asian birds are darker than those of Canada, Greenland and Siberia. Siberian birds are largest while Alaskan birds are smallest. Intergrades between the Alaskan and Canadian populations occur in northwestern Canada. Banks summarizes the rather convoluted history of the taxonomy of this species, outlines the breeding ranges of each race and discusses the races of nonbreeding occurrences south of the breeding range, possible hybrids between Glaucous Gulls and Glaucous-winged or Herring gulls and the probable influence of post-breeding wandering in earlier interpretations of this species' racial composition. Some reported southern records are probably albino Herring Gulls rather than Glaucous.) MKM

Population, status, moult, measurements, and subspecies of Knot *Calidris canutus* wintering in south India. S. Balachandran. 1988. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 86:44-47. 11/100, Central St., Agasteeswaram & P.O., Kanyakumari Dist., Tamil Nadu. S. India 629701 (Red Knots wintering in India arrive with partial primary molt in October and complete it by January. A drop in percentage of first-year birds caught at the Gulf of Mannar from 55% in 1985 to 27% in 1986 to zero in 1987 may reflect breeding failure. Knots leaving India for

breeding areas in March weigh substantially less than the departure weights of those of the same race wintering in Australia, presumably reflecting the difference in the two populations in the distance between wintering and breeding areas.) MKM

A partial post-juvenile molt and transitional plumage in the Shrika (*Accipiter badius*) and Grey Frog Hawk (*Accipiter soloensis*). M. Herremans and M. Louette. 2000. *J. Raptor Res.* 34:249-261. Roy. Mus. for Central Africa, Dept. Zool., Leuvensesteenung 13, B-3080 Tervuren, Begium (Examination of museum specimens indicates that both these species undergo three age-related body molts similar in pattern to those described previously for the Levant Sparrowhawk. The juvenal plumage is replaced by a transitional post-juvenal plumage during a partial contour molt in which more feathers are replaced ventrally than dorsally. The adult plumage replaces this transitional plumage by a complete molt. The transitional plumage is uncommon and poorly developed in a subspecies of the Shrika that has almost no adult sexual dimorphism.) MKM

Flight identification of Golden Eagles with emphasis on aging criteria. Z. Smith. 2002. *Hawk Migration Studies* 27:30-31. no address indicated. (The border between the white basal portion and the dark brown terminal band of the tail of juvenile Golden Eagles is much sharper and abrupt than on older birds. Secondaries on two-year-old birds usually include some retained juvenile [relatively long and pointed] and some shorter, rounder second-year feathers. Secondaries on third-year birds tend to be roughly equal in length, with varying amounts of gray barring, contrasting with browner underwing coverts. Tails of adults are mostly dark brown with gray barring, wider in females than in males. Underwings of adults are also barred gray, while the trailing edge of the adult wing is smooth. As timing of changes varies individually, none of these features is conclusive in itself, but in combination they help differentiate among ages.) MKM

Unusual junco at feeder. H. Fisher. 2006. *Blue Jay* 64:175. R.R. 4, Site 1, Box 231, Prince Albert, SK S6V 5R2 (Photograph and very brief description of Dark-eyed Junco with large white cheek patches.) MKM

Albino robin. G. H. Dash. 2006. *Blue Jay* 64:176. Box 563, Regina Beach, SK S0G 4C0 (Photographs of leucistic American Robin with several white patches on head, neck, back, wing and tail.) MKM

Morphometric variation in Marbled Murrelets, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*, in British Columbia. C. L. Hull, B. A. Vanderkist and L. W. Loughheed. 2001. *Northwest. Nat.* 82:41-51. Environ. Services, Hydro Tasmania, Box 355, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia (Of 937 murrelets captured with a shallow water mist-net system or by scooping night-lighted birds from the water in coastal B.C. from 1994 to 1997, gender could be determined from blood samples of 664. Culmen lengths, bill heights, bill widths, wing chord lengths and tarsal lengths were measured on these 664. Decreases in size between captures were attributed to significant inter-observer variation and some intra-observer variation. Measurement errors were greatest in wing chord length [66.8%], lowest in tarsal length [36.8%]. No inter-annual changes were found in any measurements at Desolation Sound, but significant differences were found in culmen lengths, tarsal lengths and wing chord lengths of Desolation Sound birds and those at Mussel Inlets. Sexual dimorphism in size was too small to differentiate gender reliably, even with discriminant function analysis.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Stand structures used by Northern Spotted Owls in managed forests. L. L. Irwin and D. F. Rock. 2000. *J. Raptor Res.* 34:175-186. Box 68, Stevensville, MT 59870 (Tracking of 26 owls radio-tagged in Oregon demonstrated differences between foraging and nesting habitat.) MKM

Survival and cause specific mortality of Northern Bobwhites in western Oklahoma. S. A. Cox, A. D. Peoples, S. J. DeMaso, J. J. Lusk and F. S. Guthery. 2004. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 68:663-671. Oklahoma Dept. Wildl. Conservation, Route 1, Box 94, Forgan, OK 73938 (Survival and cause-specific mortality of Northern Bobwhites in Oklahoma were estimated by radio-marking >2500 bobwhites over an 11-year period. Annual survival [November to October] averaged about 7% with no differences noted among age or sex classes.

Raptors caused the most significant mortality, followed by mammals and then hunters. Radio-transmitters may have handicapped bobwhites; therefore, estimated survival rates may be lower than actual rates.) SG

A review of Rufous Hummingbird records in Ontario. A. T. Chartier. 2006. *Ont. Birds* 24:23-38. 1442 W. River Park Dr., Inkster, MI 48141 (Bands have shown that birds at two feeders each in two nearby areas in Ohio in 2005 were different birds, and not one as often assumed when such birds show up at feeders in close proximity. The common assumption that wintering hummingbirds that disappear have died is disproven by later recaptures of one such bird in Indiana, two in Michigan, three in Ohio and "hundreds" in the U.S. "Gulf" states.) MKM

Calgary Bird Banding Society 2005 annual technical report. D. M. Collister, G. Meyer and G. Smiley. 2006. Calgary Bird Banding Soc., Calgary. ii + 23 numbered pp. + 10 figs., 11 tables & six appendices. Calgary Bird Band. Soc., 247 Parkside Cr. SE, Calgary, AB T2J 4J3 (This impressive report begins with a detailed code of ethics. The caption to the six-photo frontispiece of flooded study sites reflects ecological thinking, lamenting flooding that forced the MAPS project to be curtailed after the first two weeks and delayed other banding efforts but looking forward to the balsam poplar renewal that is likely to result. During its fourth full season of spring banding at Calgary's Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, 370 new bandings of 40 species were achieved in 32 days, while 1,335 new bandings of 67 species were achieved in 62 days in the 11th full fall session. Intra-year recaptures totaled 605, involving 388 birds of 43 species. Forty-seven birds of five species banded in previous years were recaptured. Red-naped Sapsucker, Bank Swallow and Lazuli Bunting were new species on the society's banding list. A Yellow-rumped Warbler banded during fall 2002 was recaptured and released about 3000 km farther south in Texas in 2003. During the second year of full Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring in the foothills southwest of Priddis, 209 saw-whets and one Long-eared Owl were captured on 44 days. Two saw-whets banded elsewhere were caught, one banded near Matador, SK, in 2004, the other banded near

Thorhild, AB, in 2005. The first two sessions [121 net-hours] were achieved in the MAPS project before flooding prevented access. During the second year of full migration banding at Las Caletas, Costa Rica, 1,412 birds were captured in 2209 net-hours, including 1,054 new bandings of 81 species. Swainson's Thrushes constituted 96% of the 559 migrants captured, while hummingbirds led the 496 residents. Two of the five newly captured species [Acadian Flycatcher and Tennessee Warbler] were Nearctic-breeding migrants. An appendix lists 117 species caught there in the two years of full banding plus two preliminary years. A table lists all injuries and casualties as a proportion of the total of a given species banded. Casualties include predation by a deer on a Northern Waterthrush.) MKM

Turnover and dispersal of Prairie Falcons in southwestern Idaho. R. N. Lehman, K. Steenhof, L. B. Carpenter and M. N. Kochert. 2000. *J. Raptor Res.* 34:262-269. Dept. Fish. & Wildl. Biol., Colorado State Univ., Fort Collins, CO 80523 (From 1970 to 1994, 2,060 Prairie Falcons [1,858 nestlings and 202 adults] were banded in the Snake River Birds of Prey Conservation Area and 1189 of these were also fitted with color bands, patagial tags and/or radio-transmitters. Subsequent encounters with these marked birds indicated that 57% of nest sites were occupied by different birds from one year to the next, a higher turnover rate than reported elsewhere. Distances between fledging sites and subsequent nesting sites were documented, as were distances between nesting sites of individual birds between years. Twenty banded birds were recovered at different nesting sites than those used on first encounter. Males were found to disperse greater distances than females. Only four banded nestlings were encountered outside the conservation area in subsequent years, and only one of those was documented to nest outside the area. At least 26 female falcons returned to the same nesting site the year after banding, two for at least three years.) MKM

Roost sites of radio-marked Mexican Spotted Owls in Arizona and New Mexico: sources of variability and descriptive characteristics. J. L. Ganey, W. M. Black and R. M. King. 2000. *J. Raptor Res.* 34:270-278. U.S.D.A. Forest Serv.,

Rocky Mtn. Res. Stn., 2500 S. Pine Knoll, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (Radio-marking of 28 owls captured at three study sites in Arizona and New Mexico allowed researchers to follow them to 1,790 roosting sites.) MKM

Are Northern Saw-whet Owls nomadic? J. S. Marks and J. H. Doremus. 2000. *J. Raptor Res.* 34:299-304. Montana Coop. Wildl. Res. Unit, Univ. Montana, Missoula, MT 59812 (Only one of 52 breeding adult and none of 139 nestling saw-whet owls banded in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, ID, since they were first documented breeding there in 1986 has been recaptured there subsequently. A nesting male banded in 1990 was recovered 900 km NNW in BC in 1993.) MKM

Brewer's Sparrow: first record for Ontario. J. Woodcock. 2006. *Ont. Birds* 24:44-46. 350 N. Harold St., Thunder Bay, ON P7C 4C6 (Alternate male captured in mist net at Thunder Cape Bird Observatory on Lake Superior on 27 May 2003, photographed, measured, released, recaptured about one hour later, transported to mainland for further confirmation and released again.) MKM

The saga of the satellite Gyr. Anonymous. 2004. *Edmonton Nature News* 1(3):1-10; **Outwitting a suspicious Gyrfalcon.** A. Franke. 2004. *Edmonton Nature News* 1(3):10-12; **A scientist's point of view.** G. Court. 2004. *Edmonton Nature News* 1(3):12; **The Gyr seen again after removal of its transmitter.** G. Romanchuk. 2004. *Edmonton Nature News* 1(3):12. addresses not included. (A "very large" Gyrfalcon was trapped during the winter of 2002-2003 at Wabamum Lake, AB, and fitted with a GPS satellite transmitter. The transmitter revealed regular movements between the lake and Edmonton until mid-March and that she then migrated to the Spatsizi Plateau of north-central BC. In Feb 2004, she appeared east of Edmonton. The falcon was too wary of the original type of lure, a pigeon, to be retrapped at first, but was eventually trapped by "bumping" her off her prey, a hen Mallard, and trapping her when she returned to finish eating her prey. Close examination of the falcon indicated that the transmitter had not caused any adverse effects after being attached to her for slightly more than one year.) MKM

Ring-billed Gulls banded in Saskatchewan, 1936-1989. C. S. Houston and M. I. Houston. 2006. *Blue Jay* 64:131-148. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 (Four banders banded Ring-billed Gulls in Saskatchewan during the study period: 3,299 by Fred G. Bard, 20,446 nestlings in nine colonies by Stuart Houston, 61 by William I. Lyon and about 60 by Robert C. McClanahan. After weeding out duplicate reports, 538 recoveries and encounters in five Canadian provinces, 29 US states and 15 Mexican states were considered valid. Recovery rates declined, apparently because of a reduction in birds shot. Fourteen recoveries in five Mexican states were considered extralimital. Tables list numbers banded at each Saskatchewan location by bander, numbers encountered in each jurisdiction, month or season of encounter, how birds were found, speed of travel and dispersal distances. Natal dispersal, natal fidelity and longevity are also discussed and encounters are mapped by month. Corrections to reported encounter locations are also noted.) MKM

Cliff and deciduous tree nests of Marbled Murrelets in southwestern British Columbia. R. W. Bradley and F. Cook. 2001. *Northwest. Nat.* 82:52-57. Centre for Wildl. Ecol., Dept. Biol. Sci., Simon Fraser Univ., 8888 University Dr., Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6 (Adult murrelets captured from small boats at night with dip nets in Desolation Sound and Mussel Inlet in 1999 and 2000 were fitted with subcutaneous radio-transmitters. Helicopter and ground surveys led observers to the first documented active and two other probable cliff nests south of Alaska and to the first documented active nest in a deciduous tree – a red alder.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Movements of Red Knot between Australia and New Zealand. A. C. Riegen, C. D. Minton, R. Jessop, and P. Collins. 2005 *Wetlands Internatl. Global Ser.* 18/ *Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:175-182. 231 Forest Hill Rd., Waiatarua 8, New Zealand (Since shorebird banding started in New Zealand in 1979, 42 Australian-banded knots have been recovered in New Zealand and 406 knots leg-flagged in Australia and New Zealand have been observed in New Zealand subsequent to banding. Most New Zealand recoveries and re-sightings were birds banded in Victoria. A much larger

proportion [42%] of the knots captured in Victoria are juveniles, compared to only 5% of those caught in New Zealand, where most birds caught are one or two years old. Totals of knots banded or flagged in various Australian states and New Zealand are tabulated, as are similar totals for recoveries and re-sightings, with full details listed in two appendices. Sightings of flagged birds observed in New Zealand are also mapped with color codes indicating Australian state or country of flagging. Besides Australia and New Zealand, New Zealand-sighted birds were flagged in China, Japan, and North Korea. To date, only five New Zealand-banded knots have been recovered in Australia and only 19 knots color-flagged in New Zealand have been seen in Australia, primarily in Queensland. An apparent age-shift in wintering areas of knots is believed to be the only such case among shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.) MKM

Keeping the common shorebirds common: action planning to save the Dunlin. M. A. Barter. 2005. *Wetlands Internatl. Global Ser.* 18/ *Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:183-187. 21 Chivalry Ave., Glen Waverley, VIC. 3150, Australia (Banding and leg-flagging of Dunlin breeding in Alaska and Russia and migrating through or wintering in Japan, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan is helping to confirm movements between specific areas but needs to be expanded to better pinpoint which populations are threatened by proposed or active developments in specific areas.) MKM



Dunlin
by George West

Dutch spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* and a Finnish turnstone *Arenaria interpres* on tropical islands: counts of shorebirds in the Cape Verdes in March 1996. K. van Dijk and T. Bakker. 1998. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 86:40-43. Vermeerstraat 48, 9718 SN Groningen, The Netherlands (During surveys of shorebirds and other water birds on the Cape Verde islands west of Senegal in the Atlantic Ocean, orange wing marks inscribed with SFR on a Little Egret were seen. It had been banded as a chick in France's Camargue in July 1995 and sighted later that August 100 km farther west in France. Color bands on one of three spoonbills showed that it had been banded as a chick 4,882 km away in the Dutch Wadden Sea in 1994. The number on one of two banded Ruddy Turnstones seen was read through a telescope, showing that it had been banded 6,126 km away in Finland in 1990.) MKM

Population demographics of the Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*, at Newcastle, New South Wales. M. K. Todd. 1997. *Corella* 21:112-118. Dept. Biol. Sci., Univ. Newcastle, University Dr., Callaghan, New South Wales, 2308, Australia (Mist-netting resulted in 333 captures of 131 birds at one site and 450 captures of 217 birds at another site within one reserve. Recaptures and sightings of color-banded birds indicated little movement between the two populations. Over 80% of the finches captured as adults were recaptured at least once during the study year [autumn 2004-autumn 2005] as were more than half of the birds banded as immatures, suggesting high survival in these populations.) MKM

Note: The volume of 2004 *J. Wildl. Manage.* publications abstracted in *NABB* 31:66-71, 2006 should be 68, not 58. Thanks to Richard C. Banks for a reprint of his review of Glaucous Gull subspecies and to Andrew C. Stewart for supplying the mailing address of Scott A. Cox and for correcting the volume number of *J. Wildl. Manage.* publications.

SG = Steven Gabrey
MKM = Martin K. McNicholl