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## Recent Literature

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### BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

**The Last Mountain Bird Observatory – a successful season!** D. Trowsdale-Mutafov. 2011. *Nature Views* 168:6. c/o Nature Saskatchewan, Rm. 206, 1960 Lorne St., Regina, SK S4P 2L7 (Brief account of part of history and operations to date of this SK observatory.) MKM

**Edgar T. Jones Nov. 22, 1922 – Sept. 28, 2011.** Anonymous. 2011. *Nature Alberta* 41(2-3):22. c/o Nature Alberta, 11759 Groat Rd., Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6 (Very brief biography of bander of 100,000 birds by 2001, mostly in Alberta, often attaining the highest number of individuals in WBBA annual reports.) MKM

**Obituary Dr. William (Bill) Charles Wakefield M.B., Ch.B. 1937-2011.** E. Wakefield. 2011. *ABSA [Australian Bird Study Association] Newsletter* 108:2. c/o Box A313, Sydney South, NSW 1235, Australia (Brief biography of Scottish-born doctor, who banded birds in Scotland from the early 1950s until 1974, when he moved to Tasmania, where he studied effects of introduced Kelp Gulls on Pacific Gulls, regularly visited shorebird colonies on islands, studied gull predation on storm-petrels and set up Australia's second longest-running co-operative banding station on the Bass Strait.) MKM

**Loss to Maritime birding community.** Anonymous. 2011. *Island Naturalist* 201:10. c/o Dan McAskill, 368 Brazel Rd., Donagh, PE C1B 0T9 (Brief biography of Brian Dalzell, the "driving force" behind founding of Grand Manan Bird Observatory, precursor to Fundy Bird Observatory, who banded there and at Anchorage Provincial Park, New Brunswick.) MKM

### EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

**Animal and plant sightings received up to Jan. 10, 2012.** J.D. McAskill. 2012. *Island Naturalist* 201:11-16. 368 Brazel Rd., Donagh, PE C1B 0T9

(A Swainson's Thrush was killed by a squirrel in a mist-net at Cameron Island, PE, in early Oct 2011.) MKM

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

**Winter body mass and over-ocean flocking as components of danger management by Pacific Dunlins.** R.C. Ydenberg, D. Dekker, G. Kaiser, P.C.F. Shepherd, L.E. Ogden, K. Richards and D.B. Lank. 2010. *BMC [BioMed Central] Ecology* 10:1-11. Centre for Wildl. Ecol., Simon Fraser Univ., Burnaby, BC. V5A1S6 (In addition to visual observations over various parts of the Fraser River estuary over several decades, data included winter 1995-1996 and spring 1998 radio-telemetry results. During the late 1970s, body masses of birds captured in mist-nets for banding were low on arrival in early October, rose steeply and remained high through January, then fell in February and March, climbing steeply again until spring departure. During the 1990s, the November-December mass peak nearly disappeared. Body masses were higher during the 1970s, when over-ocean flocking was less common than in the 1990s, with the greatest difference over the decades occurring in October, when Peregrine Falcon numbers peak. Whole body fat content was lowest in the 1990s, accounting for most of the change in body mass. Mean culmen lengths were shorter in the 1990s, when mean wing lengths were longer.) MKM

**Relationships between oceanography and the demography and foraging of auklets (Charadriiformes, Alcidae: *Aethia*, Merrem 1788) in the Aleutian Island, Alaska.** A.L. Bond. 2011. PhD. Thesis, Memorial Univ., St. John's, NL. Abstract published in *Picoides* 24(3):8, 2011. Dept. Biol., Memorial Univ., St. John's, NL A1B 3X9 (Stable-isotope ratios in the innermost primary of adult auklets varied with a shift in foraging patterns stimulated by a change in ocean fronts.) MKM

**Sexing young Snowy Owls.** M.T. Seidensticker, D.W. Holt, J. Detienne, S. Talbot and K. Gray. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:281-289. Owl Res. Inst., Box 39, Charlo, MT 59824 (A method of predicting sex of 140 flightless [38-44 day-old] owls at Barrow, AK, by quantifying remige and tail markings was compared with molecular blood sample findings, with 100% agreement. Males had more spots [markings that do not touch the rachis] than bars on the remiges and rectrices, whereas females had more bars [touching the rachis] than males, with the number and types of markings on the secondaries the most important. Data on bill depths, widths and lengths and on mass are also included, as well as some feather details that were less useful in predicting gender.) MKM

**Late-season nesting and moult-breeding overlap in Spotted Towhees in southeastern British Columbia.** J. Arndt. 2011. *British Columbia Birds* 21:32-35. 901 Highway 3A, Nelson, BC V1L 6J5 (Both adults of the breeding pair of towhees with British Columbia's latest documented active nest began molting while still feeding young. Progression of molt in this pair is described in as much detail as the author could observe without disturbing and handling the birds.) MKM

**Challenges in creating an American Kestrel body condition index based on size-adjusted mass.** J.A. Heath, E.H. Strasser, M.A. Foster, L. Bardo and D.M. Bird. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:324-334. Dept. Biol. Sci. & Raptor Res. Cent., Boise State Univ., Boise, ID 83725 (Relationships between morphometric measurements, body mass and fat scores in a captive population of American Kestrels in Quebec and a wild population in Idaho were examined, with few strong correlations evident and the reliability of body condition indices varying between sexes. Data on culmen, bill depth, bill width, keel, wing, tail, tarsus and hallux lengths are summarized from each population in tables. Correlations between body parts measured differed between the populations and between genders.) MKM

## NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING

**Summary of 2011, ninth year in the Saskatchewan vulture tagging program.** C.S. Houston. 2011. *Nature Views* 168:7. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 (Tagging of 151 nestlings in 89 successful nests brought the nine-year total to 774 nestlings tagged in 450 successful nest attempts. One of nine failed nests was attended by an eight-year old tagged bird that was successful in 2010. An eight-year-old vulture that returned to a 2010 nest was not known to have laid eggs.) MKM

**Spotlight on BC Nature federated clubs [:] Mackenzie Nature Observatory – banding station at Mugaha Marsh.** V. Lambie. 2011. *BC Nature* 50(4):32. Box 661, MacKenzie, BC. V0J 2C0 (Summary of some of history and highlights of 17<sup>th</sup> banding season in fall 2011 [19 Jul-23 Sep], when 2,724 birds of 59 species were banded and 25 birds of 11 species were recaptured. Highlights were new high totals for Tennessee Warbler and Swainson's Thrush, the warblers possibly related to an outbreak of caterpillars of aspen leaf miners. Numbers of Common Yellowthroats and Wilson's Warblers were unusually low. The top ten species banded in 2011 and the top ten banded in 1995-2011 are listed as new and previous highs of seven species. Mountain Bluebird was added to the station's banding list and the third ever Townsend's Warbler captured.) MKM

**Wildlife! Starring...Mountain Bluebird trails.** K. Davis. 2011. *Nature Alberta* 41(2-3):36-37. c/o Nature Alberta, 11759 Groat Rd., Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6 (During the first season of taking over a bluebird nest-box trail west of Stavely, AB, presumably in 2011, 11 female and 75 nestling bluebirds were banded and four previously banded bluebirds recaptured.) MKM

**Featured species—Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*).** R.W. Campbell and M.I. Preston. 2009. *Wildlife Afield* 6:173-255. 2511 Kilgarey Pl., Victoria, BC V8N 0B4 (A Snowy Owl banded at Vancouver International Airport, Richmond, BC, in Jan 1966 was recovered during spring 1966 at Point Barrow,

AK. Banding has helped evaluate recovery of Snowy Owls released after rehabilitation from apparent rodenticide poisoning. Between 1963 and 1967, about 500 raptors were trapped and banded at Vancouver International Airport, then released elsewhere, with few subsequent recaptures. Results of banding and telemetry studies conducted elsewhere are incorporated into this review when they pertain to issues under discussion, such as satellite evidence that some Snowy Owls now spend much of the winter on pack ice at sea off Wrangel Island, Siberia, now that global warming has prolonged the periods when water is open there and aspects of winter territoriality revealed through Alberta banding studies by Preston and others, such as Ross Lein. Josephson's 1980 key to age and gender determination is also reprinted.) MKM

**Peregrine starts long journey...** B. Anderson. 2011. *Wandering Tattler* 35(2):6. Box 248, Bow, WA, 98232 (A GPS solar-powered transmitter fitted on a female Peregrine Falcon nesting on Baffin Island, NU, showed her to reach Thunder Bay, ON, in three days on 21 Sep 2011, within 24 hr of the times reached there in the two previous years. On 25 Sep, she spent the night in Springfield, IL. In 2010, the transmitter allowed researchers to track her movements and roosting sites after the Chilean earthquake of that year.) MKM

**Calgary area nest-box monitors annual report 2011.** B. Taylor and D. Stiles. 2011. privately published. 19 pp. Stiles: 20 Lake Wapta Rise SE, Calgary, AB T2J 2M9 (A total of 13,911 Tree Swallows fledged in 2011 was a new high; whereas, 5,354 Mountain Bluebird fledglings were the sixth lowest total. A table lists the 26 monitors of the Calgary area trails who are also banders, along with their contact information. The group lost another long-time banding nest monitor, Stan Palmer, one of whose banded Tree Swallows was recovered in Nebraska. A photograph of an albino Mountain Bluebird fledgling is included. In total, 186 Mountain Bluebirds and 217 Tree Swallows were recovered, as summarized by bander in tables detailing distances moved, whether banded as adults or young and age at recovery. Additional details of the longer distance recoveries are detailed

in the text, with all the bluebirds and two swallows recovered elsewhere in Alberta. Another Tree Swallow, banded as a HY near Dog Creek, BC, in 2008, was recovered about 585 km ESE near DeWinton, AB, in 2011, similar to a Dog Creek-banded swallow recovered at East Didsbury, AB, in 2010, as published by D.J. Stiles and R.D. Dawson [see fourth next abstract, below]. The oldest Tree Swallow recovered was eight years, followed by two six-year olds. Three six-year olds were the oldest Mountain Bluebirds. Movements of both species from one trail to another within the Calgary area between years and re-nesting on other trails following clutch losses are also documented. Several additional banding anecdotes and detailed reports of some trails are also included.) MKM

**Neck-banded Tundra Swans from Alaska.** G. Clulow, 2011. *BC. Birding* 21(1):27. 6579 Oakhill Pl., Burnaby, BC V5E 4E5 (A neck-banded Tundra Swan banded near King Salmon, AK, as an AHY male in Jul 2010 was observed at Beaver Flats, BC in Oct 2010.) MKM

**Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2010.** A. Wormington and M.H. Cranford. 2011. *Ontario Birds* 29:106-148. R.R. 1, Leamington, ON L5A 2G4 (Reviews of 155 submitted records of extralimital occurrence resulted in acceptance of 125 [81%] and 15 were considered identified correctly but of uncertain origin. The addition of Yellow-nosed Albatross, Sooty or Short-tailed Shearwater and Anna's Hummingbird to the list of positively identified species brings the Ontario list to 486. A record of a Vega Gull also adds a currently recognized race of Herring Gull to the provincial list. Mist-netting for banding is mentioned in the documentation of a Grasshopper Sparrow at Thunder Cape, while photographs of hand-held birds imply that this was also true of a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Thunder Cape and a Green-tailed Towhee at Long Point. An unusually long "Corrections/Updates" section adds or corrects numerous details on locations, dates, observers, age, sex, racial and evidence [e.g., more photos] are added or subtracted to/from the 1982-1993 and 2009 reports.) MKM

**Amazing hummingbird recapture.** S. Weidensaul. 2012. *Wandering Tattler* 35(6):6. 778 Schwartz Valley Rd., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 (An adult female Rufous Hummingbird banded by Alan Chartier in Ashland County, FL, in Oct 2009 was recaptured in Pensacola, FL, in Dec 2010 and again in early Nov, presumably 2011, when she was at least three years, six months old.) MKM

**Long-distance natal dispersal in Tree Swallows: recaptures of birds with British Columbia origins in Alberta.** D.J. Stiles and R.D. Dawson. 2011. *Blue Jay* 69:157-160. 20 Lake Wapta Rise SE, Calgary, AB V2N 4Z9 (Details, illustrated on a map, of 2007 female nestling banded west of Prince George, BC, and recaptured 667 km SE of Didsbury, AB, and of female nestling banded near Dog Creek, BC, in 2008 and recaptured 586 km ESE near DeWinton, AB, in 2010, as reported in the report by B. Taylor and Stiles abstracted above. An adult male banded near Prince George in June 2003 was shot at Spring Lake, TX, in Oct 2003. A nestling hatched in June 2006 near Prince George and banded on 3 Jul 2006 was recaptured as a nesting female 3,225 km east near Nanticoke, ON, in July 2009. These and previously published recoveries of AB and SK banded Tree Swallows in CA, NE, SD and TX suggest more variable migratory patterns than thought previously.) MKM

## NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

**Local and regional movements of the Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* in eastern Australia.** A.C.M. Smith and U. Munro. 2011. *Corella* 35:89-94. Centre for Environ. Sustainability, School of the Environ., Univ. of Technol., Sydney, Box 123, Broadway, NSW 2007 Australia (Banding data helped document and understand the complexities of movements by this ibis, which is declining in interior Australia, but expanding in coastal portions of eastern Australia. In 2005-2006, 830 birds, primarily nestlings, were banded with regular bands, 689 were also fitted with color bands and 306 were fitted with additional bands. Sightings of these and previously banded birds

identified 26 pathways of local movements between breeding sites and local landfills and the distances moved by both adults and young. Longer distance movements were documented between sites near Sydney and other parts of Eastern Australia, the "Gold Coast"/Brisbane region, Queensland, and southern Papua New Guinea. Data were also obtained on speed of flights, distances moved, some breeding site fidelity, some movements between roosting sites, and long distance movements. Banding is also expected to help document changes in movement patterns with age.) MKM

**A boom year for Clarence Valley, north coast NSW storks.** G.P. Clancey. 2011. *ABSA [Australian Bird Study Association] Newsletter* 105:4. Coutts Crossing, NSW, Australia (Eleven of the first 15 Black-necked Stilts color-banded in an expanding population have been observed subsequently, including a 2007-banded chick that has since become the father of a young fledged in his own fledging site.) MKM

**Breeding ecology and habitat use of the Daito Scops Owl (*Otus elegans interpositus*) on an oceanic island.** K. Akatani, T. Mnatsuo and M. Takagi. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:315-323. Dept. of Biol. & Geosciences, Grad. School of Sci., Osaka City Univ., 3-3-138 Sugimoto, Sumiyoshi, Osaka 558-8585, Japan (From 2002-2007, 17 territorial males and seven females were tracked with radio-telemetry to determine habitat use and home range size and to help obtain life history data on the small Northern Pacific Island of Minami-daito. Telemetry showed that more than half the owls selected *Ficus* forests during the breeding season, most selected edges between open areas [grasslands and sugar cane fields] and forests during non-breeding periods. Territory sizes were estimated by observations of birds that were caught in mist-nets, color-banded and marked with reflective colored tape.) MKM

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**MKM = Martin K. McNicholl**