

However, this has led to many misconceptions in techniques for aging third-winter and adult herring gulls based on primary pattern and other features. Even with a common species like herring gull, we still have a lot to learn.

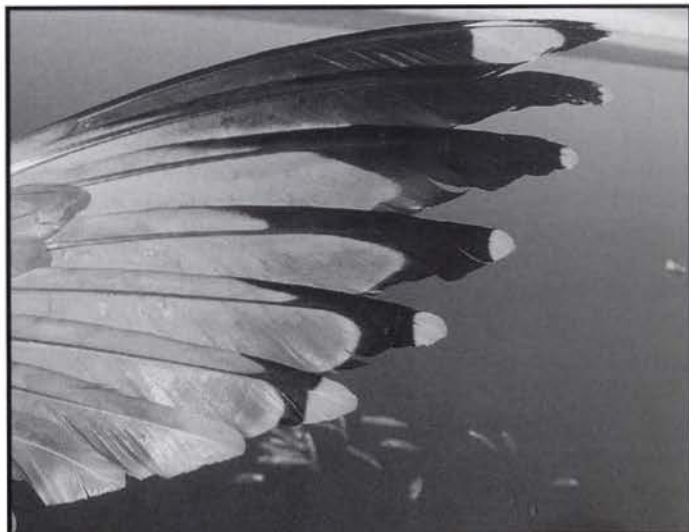
\*American herring gull has been split from the European herring gull by European ornithologists, with the scientific name *Larus smithsonianus*. There is no word whether this split may be accepted by ornithologists on this side of the pond sometime in the future.

#### Acknowledgment

Special thanks to Dr. Timothy Matson for allowing me to view the study skins of herring gulls in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's collection. *Thanks to the Cleveland Bird Calendar for permission to reproduce this article.*

#### Literature Cited

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This is a "typical" wingtip pattern of an American herring gull *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* from the Cleveland Lakefront, in January 2005. Note the large subapical spot on P-10 and the lack of a spot on P-9. This bird had a pure white tail and unmarked, adult gray mantle. Photo by Kevin Metcalf.

## Short Note: Banded Henslow's Sparrow in Butler County

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On June 16, 2005, I photographed a Henslow's Sparrow at the Voice of America Park, Butler County, Ohio. I did not notice the bird was banded until reviewing my photographs later in the day. Unfortunately the metal band on the bird cannot be read in the photos. This bird has been found singing at the same perch on a number of occasions. I personally observed it singing from a perch about 50 feet away 4 days later. It had been displaced from its normal spot by a group flying radio-controlled gliders. The bird appears to be a member of a breeding colony. Up to eight individuals have been seen by observers during the months of May and June. Henslow's Sparrows have been confirmed at this site every year since 2002 according to Ned Keller's database of Cincinnati bird sightings (<http://cincinnatibirds.com/database/select.php>). The species may have been found at the site previously but it was a Voice of America site from 1944 to 1994 ([http://www.ohiobirds.org/news.php?News\\_ID=79](http://www.ohiobirds.org/news.php?News_ID=79)).

No one has been banding this species at the site and the two closest banding programs of which I am aware are at the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Indiana and The Wilds in southeastern Ohio. Both of these sites have been contacted with assistance from Mike Busam and Bob Foppe and both indicated that the bird was not banded as part of their programs. I have sent an email to the Bird Banding Lab at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center describing the bird and bands but have received no reply as yet. When viewed from the front the bird has a single metal band on the left leg along with a single orange band above it and two orange bands on the right leg. The photo shows details of the bands.

The bird was still present as of 8/8/2005. In addition a juvenile was in the same area (within 20 ft). My attempts to track down the bander resulted in the following e-mails from Brian Davidson.

Email 1: "I have a bird that MIGHT match that description. On 05/09/2005 we banded an ASY male Henslow on the Turner (Gritton) property with the color combination O/Aluminum (R) - O/O (L). Its USFW Band # was 1771-19392. The color combination (although not the order) is correct. When we viewed the photos, my wife and I could make out 39 under the 1771 portion of the aluminum band. From our data and the available photos we can't conclusively say that we banded that bird."

Email 2: "The property is southwest of Lawrenceburg in Anderson County, Kentucky. GPS coordinates for the capture site are 37 57' 04.0" N, 85 02' 23.0" W. It'll be really hard to see in the field, but the outer two rectrices were plucked for a title chronology study."



A banded Henslow's sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii*, photographed at the VOA Park in Butler County 16 June 2005 by William Hull.



The polyandrous female spotted sandpiper lays up to five clutches of eggs for her mates to care for. This result, photographed 16 July by Brian Zwiebel at Pickerel Ck WA, is later than most.