

Periodic censuses of local shorebird resting areas were maintained for about a month following release of the marked knots. In addition, International Shorebird Survey co-operators and other ornithologists in North, Central, and South America were alerted to watch for marked birds via our own mailings as well as notices in popular and technical ornithological journals. Finally, we searched for marked birds at areas of knot concentrations in New Jersey, Florida, Venezuela, and Argentina.

Results and discussion.—The majority of knots marked on 7 August apparently departed southeastern Massachusetts within 10 days of marking, as evidenced by the decreasing ratios of marked to unmarked birds at and near the banding site (Table 1). Subsequent sightings of the marked knots suggest that the birds caught on 7 August travelled to southern Argentina, the fastest one taking about 36 days to reach Peninsula Valdes (ca. 43°S, 64°W), a distance of about 8300 km.

During the 1981 northward migration we also had 7 sightings at Peninsula Valdes of knots from the 7 August "banding class," including 2 captured on 11 April and another seen on 22 April, the last day of field work. On 14 May we again found members of the 7 August banding class, now in Cape May County, New Jersey (ca. 39°N, 75°W), plus an additional 12 sightings between 14 and 25 May (Table 1).

We also had some important negative results. Between 1 and 10 January we looked for marked birds among approximately 4500 knots in the Sarasota region of western Florida. None from the 7 August banding class was found. Between 6 and 15 March we looked for marked knots among migrants in western Venezuela, carefully checking approximately 900 birds; no marked birds were found.

The results presented here show that a well-timed banding and survey program at strategic locations is a fruitful way to research knot migration. Our work also has included other banding and color-marking in Florida, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Argentina. Taken together, and with some additional field work, we are confident that a well-founded estimate of the relatively small world population of *C. c. rufa*, as well as a good description of the migration routes and major staging areas, will be possible.

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Cowbird Egg in Common Tern Nest.—The Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) may rarely lay an egg without chance of survival in an inappropriate nest such as that of a duck, hawk, or gull (Friedmann, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 233:44–46, 1963; Friedmann, et al., *Smithson. Contrib. Zool.* 235:10, 1977). We wish to report the first instance where a tern was the host species (Herbert Friedmann, pers. comm., 22 August and October 1980).

On 7 July 1979, while banding nestlings of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) on an island in Redberry Lake, Saskatchewan, 52°40'N; 107°11'W, we found a tern nest containing 2 tern eggs and 1 egg of the Brown-headed Cowbird. The tern nest was surrounded by sparse grasses at the north end of the sandy 2-ha island.

In 18 years of visits once or twice yearly to this island, we have not previously observed cowbirds or their eggs in any nest on this island, although they are common along the mainland shore, 2 km distant, and on 3 larger islands, 1, 1, and 3 km distant.

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