
Recent Literature

Edited by Susan Kaiser

Aging, Sexing, Identification and Anomalies

Plumage variation in Black-capped Chickadees: is there sexual dimorphism? M. Gochfield. 1977. *Bird-Banding*, 48:62-66. (Sexual dimorphism in plumage was not confirmed; however, measurements of wing, tail and bill revealed significant differences between males and females.) LD

Timing of completion of skull pneumatization in the Pine Siskin. R.P. Yunick. 1977. *Bird-Banding*, 48:67-71. (Skulls examined at a New York banding station are the basis for recommending that banders use skull pneumatization to distinguish immatures only from mid-November to mid-March and not to use this method later than mid-March.) LD

A preliminary method to determine sex in Canada Geese by skin transparency. J. Bench, W.J. Rudersdorf, and J.P. Harley. 1976. *IBB News*, 48:69-70. (The skin of females on the underside of the wing, about two inches from the body, appears transparent, whereas in males it was white or opaque. This distinction agreed with cloacal examinations 92-94% of the time. Courtesy of R.B. Clapp. 1977. *Bird-Banding*, 48:80) LD

Banding Equipment and Techniques

An annotated bibliography of bird marking techniques. W.R. Marion and J.D. Shamis. 1977. *Bird-Banding*, 48:42-61. (Various bird marking techniques are reviewed, including: leg bands and streamers, plumage markers, back tags, neckbands or collars, neck tags, patagial tags, nasal discs or saddles, and biotelemetry.) LD

Avian endocrinology—field investigations and methods. J.C. Winfield and D.S. Farner. 1976. *Condor*, 78:570-573. (Discusses capture and banding, blood-sampling, laparotomy, and assay methods.) SK

Identification of origins of Lesser Snow Geese by X-ray spectrometry. J.P. Kelsall and R. Burton. 1977. *Can. J. Zool.*, 55:718-732. (Shortcomings of banding as a management tool include expense in man-hours and logistics, especially in remote areas, slow returns, lack of returns, and inaccuracies of returns.) MM

Notes on a winter bird-population study: observations versus netting. E.J. Fisk. 1976. *Amer. Birds*, 30:1075. (Many birds were found to be present through netting and banding that were missed by observation. This was especially true of common species.) MM

Major North American Banding Results

Survival and mobility in a population of Pacific Coast Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia gouldii*). R. Halliburton and L.R. Mewaldt. 1976. *Condor*, 78:499-504. (Minimum annual survival, dispersal, and home range were calculated from records of over 2500 banded birds at Pt. Reyes, Calif. Effects of dispersal on genetic drift are discussed.) SK

Colony selection and colony site tenacity in Ring-billed Gulls at a stable colony. W.E. Southern. 1977. *Auk*, 94:469-478. (Long-term banding, wing-marker and retrapping data from a Great Lakes colony were used to show that the tendency to return to the natal colony was not well defined, but colony site tenacity after first breeding is well developed.) NC

Inter-brood movements of juvenile Spruce Grouse. D.M. Keppie. 1977. *Wilson Bull.*, 89:67-72. (Young chicks were marked with numbered wing tags. Leg bands were used on birds after about 40 days of age.) NC

Southbound migration of shorebirds from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. R. McNeil and J. Burton. 1977. *Wilson Bull.*, 89:167-171. (More than 15,000 shorebirds of 21 species were captured on the Magdalen Islands and Sable Is. in 1969-1972. Great numbers migrate mainly by an off-shore route to South America. Most return by passing over the Caribbean, then through the interior of the U.S. or along the Atlantic Coast.) NC

Population limitation in diurnal raptors. I. Newton. 1976. *Can. Field-Natur.* 90:274-300. (Banding and telemetry have shown that many raptors, especially males, hunt at considerable distances from nests. Banding recoveries indicate that immigrants responding to highs in rodent cycles are mainly birds nesting for the first time.) MM

Recent Literature

Starling longevity record? R.B. Clapp. 1977 *Bird-Banding*, 48:77. (The author corrected a record of 16 years, 8 months, thought by C.L. Strelitzer, 1975 *IBB News*, 47:19, to be the greatest longevity attained by a Starling. Rydzewski, 1973, *Ring*, 76:70, listed a Belgian bird with an elapsed time of 20 years, 18 days.) LD

Other North American Banding Results

Salt water tolerance and water turnover in the Snowy Plover. J.R. Purdue and H. Haines. 1977. *Auk*, 94:248-255. (Mist-nets or traps were used to capture Snowy Plovers on the Great Salt Plains of Oklahoma. Birds eat succulent food [insects] and depend on appropriate maintenance behavior to live in a seemingly osmotically-stressful environment.) NC

Effect of cowbird parasitism on American Goldfinch nesting. A.L.A. Middleton. 1977. *Auk*, 94:304-307. (Nesting goldfinches in Guelph, Ontario were trapped and color-banded. Twenty-two (9%) nests were parasitized by cowbirds; no cowbirds fledged. Goldfinches nesting in man-made habitats were largely free of the cowbird's influence.) NC

Behavior of Ruddy Duck broods in Utah. D.E. Joyner. 1977. *Auk*, 94:343-349. (188 adult and juvenile birds were taken in funnel traps or captured with a small hand net. Individuals were marked with nasal saddles and leg banded.) NC

Polygynous breeding of Short-billed Marsh Wrens. R.D. Crawford. 1977. *Auk*, 94:359-362. (Most male and female wrens in the Iowa study area were mist-netted and banded.) NC

Pterylosis and molt in Cassin's Finch. F.B. Samson. 1976. *Condor*, 78:505-511. (A study of color-banded birds from a montane Utah population revealed that non-breeding yearling males began post-nuptial molt before older males and all females.) SK

Mortality of banded Peregrine Falcons that have been held in captivity. W. Shor. 1976. *Condor*, 78:558-560. (Data on band recoveries do not support an earlier assumption that Peregrines released after being held in captivity will have a high mortality from shooting.) SK

Dominance hierarchies in winter Song Sparrows. R.W. Knapton and J.R. Krebs. 1976. *Condor*, 78:567-569. (A study of color-banded birds in British Columbia suggests that the juveniles obtaining territories are the dominant individuals in hierarchies established before the breeding season.) SK

Great Gray Owl nests. R.W. Nero. 1976. *Manitoba Nature*, 17:4-11. (Banding is playing an increasingly important role in a comprehensive study of the Great Gray Owl in Manitoba.) MM

Status of the Black-billed Cuckoo and Cape May Warbler in southern New Mexico. D.A. Zimmerman. 1976. *Amer. Birds*, 30:919. (The only Calif. record of Black-billed Cuckoo considered acceptable was banded and photographed at Pt. Reyes in 1965.) MM

Foreign Banding Results

Molt, measurements and migrations of the Grey Plover. N.J.B.A. Branson and C.D.T. Minton. 1976. *Bird Study*, 23:257-266. (Based on ringing data. Discusses migrations and origins, bill and wing length, weight, and arrested molt in autumn arrivals.) SK

Observations on the Cape Rail in the Southern Transvaal. M.B. Schmitt. 1976. *Ostrich*, 47:16-26. (Rails were trapped and banded for five years; discussions include plumage and sexual dimorphism, behavior, voice, territory and population, breeding, molt, weight cycles, recaptures, mortality and migration.) SK

The migration system of the Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* in Africa. C.C.H. Elliott, M. Waltmer, L.G. Underhill, J.S. Pringle, and W.J.A. Dick. 1976. *Ostrich*, 47:191-213. (Discusses ringing and recoveries, sex ratio, molt, breeding plumage, population changes, weight changes, and fat of over 11,500 ringed birds.) SK

Ecological correlates of rarity in a tropical forest bird community. J.R. Karr. 1977. *Auk*, 94:240-247. (Mist-netting was conducted for 2400 mist-net hours during an intensive study of forest birds in the Panama Canal Zone.) NC

An evaluation of factors affecting wing length and its variability in the Coot *Fulica atra*. J. Visser. 1976. *Ardea*, 64:1-21. (The difficulty in making comparisons with measurements reported in the literature is discussed. Measurements of 4797 wings, mostly from live birds in the Netherlands, revealed that measurements varied over a wide geographical range and that annual variations occur.) NC

Bits-N-Pieces (From Amer. Birds)

The nesting season. June 1—July 31, 1976. R.J. Newman (ed.). 1976. *Amer. Birds*, 30:920-1005. (Banding is mentioned incidentally in relation to various nesting, seasonal, and distributional records, most notably the banding of young Little Gulls in MI's first nesting, and a new altitudinal record for Costa's Hummingbird in AZ. Yellow-dyed Semipalmated Sandpipers from James Bay were seen in NJ in July, and the presence of banded birds among Sooty Terns nesting in the Chandeleur Islands suggested they came from the Dry Tortugas. Ten and 6 young Brown Pelicans were banded at 2 TX colonies, where parents included birds banded 3 years earlier and last year's banded birds were "playing at courting and nesting." A total of 107 young Great Horned Owls banded in Sask. was low there. The increase and spread of House Finches in eastern North America was illustrated by banding totals at 4 PA localities: 940 (including 440 young), 220, 84, and 128. Other noteworthy banding totals were 32 White-faced Ibis in ID and 949 in CO; over 275 Black-crowned Night Herons in CO; 65 young Ospreys at one ID lake; 900 young California and 300 young Ring-billed Gulls at Freezeout Lake, MT; 73 young Screech Owls in OH; 100 young Eastern Bluebirds in PA; and 400 young Mountain Bluebirds in Sask.) MM

New Periodical

The Song Sparrow. Newsletter of the Southern Illinois Bird Observatory. 1977. Vol. 1, No. 1. (A quarterly newsletter, with one issue being the annual report. No. 1 includes a breakdown of captures and recaptures for 74 species handled in spring, activities of the organization, and plans for the future. For membership info. write: SIBO, P.O. Box 2471, Carbondale, IL 62901.) SK



Received for Review

A checklist of the birds of Washington State, with recent changes annotated. P.W. Mattocks, Jr., E.S. Hunn, and T.R. Wahl. 1976. *Western Birds*, 7:1-24. (This is the first comprehensive update of the state's avifauna since 1953. Included in this work are the checklist of 377 species, coded as to status, along with annotations for 62 species either new to the list or whose status has changed radically since 1953. There is a list of hypotheticals, and an extensive bibliography.) SK

Reprints may be ordered from (and checks made payable to): Western Field Ornithologists, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon, CA 94920. Price: \$1.25 (10 or more 75¢ ea.).

Pelagic birds of Monterey Bay, California. R.W. Stallcup. 1976. *Western Birds*, 7:113-136. (This paper is indispensable for those who contemplate pelagic trips on Monterey Bay. The species accounts, accompanied by 10 photographs and three figures (silhouettes) reflect the extensive field experience of the author. There is a key to shearwaters and an especially valuable section on tern identification.) SK

Order from Western Field Ornithologists (address above). Price: \$1.50 (10 or more \$1.00 ea.).

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