Recent Literature

Edited by Dr. Martin K. McNicholl

Banding equipment and techniques

Use of human hair bleach to mark blackbirds and starlings. S. B. White, T. A. Bookhout, & E. K. Bolinger. 1980. *J. Field Ornithol.* 51:6–9. (The plumage of Common Grackles was bleached white and subsequent reporting rates documented. The technique was more difficult than color-banding, but sighting rate was higher.) LD

The effect of band loss on estimates of annual survival. L. J. Nelson, D. R. Anderson, & K. P. Burnham. 1980. *J. Field Ornithol.* 51:30–38. (Estimates of annual survival rates are probably biased only slightly negatively in most cases. The most significant bias would be for species with low mortality rates and severe band loss. The bias of age-specific survival rates from the life table methods is quite marked.) LD

Band wear in the Fulmar. A. Anderson. 1980. *J. Field Ornithol.* 51:101–109. (Wear on aluminum and monel bands were compared. Greatest wear was on the inner surface, with excessive wear on reduced diameter bands or bands fitted with non-circular shape. Wear leads to weakening of the band and obliteration of the symbols. Monel bands lasted longer (>18 years) than butt-ended (6 years) or double-ended bands (11 years). LD

Toe-banding of Common Loon chicks. J. W. McIntyre. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 48:272–273. (Placing a regular band through the toe webbing of loons to avoid bands slipping off the leg of immature birds is desirable.) LD

Use of computer methods to reduce error in color banding studies of long-lived birds. J. C. Ollason. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49:101–107. (Circumstances likely to cause errors in color band identification, speed and accuracy advantages, and other means of reducing errors in data collection are presented.) LD

A method for externally sexing gulls. G. W. Shugart. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48:118–121. (Five plumage and body measurements for 54 Herring and 93 Ring-billed Gulls of known sex are used to demonstrate the use of these measurements on determining sex of live birds.) LD

Use of nestboxes by Dippers on Sagehen Creek, California, V. M. Hawthorne. 1979. *Western Birds* 10:215–216. (Nest boxes attached to vertical surfaces were used, and nestlings banded.) RT

A transparent nest box for swallows. D. B. Inkley. 1983. *Western Birds* 14:112. (One transparent side, preferably against a window, works best. Cover the transparent side with black paper initially and remove strips at night after nesting starts.) RT

Foreign banding results

Returns and recoveries of banded North American birds in Panama and the tropics. H. Loftin. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 48:253—258. (Summarizes returns of 44 boreal-breeding species banded in Panama and other tropical countries. All species breed to some extent in North America.) LD

The seasonal distribution of recoveries and causes of Blackbird mortality. L. A. Batten. 1978. *Bird Study* 25:23–32. (Causes and distribution of adult mortality of Blackbird, *Turdus merula*, were examined for each decade since 1909. A trend towards decreasing winter mortality in recent decades was found. Variation in the amount of rainfall in June and July accounted for 47% of the annual variation in the proportion of juveniles surviving to their first breeding season.) MK

Turnstone migration in Britain and Europe. N. Branson, E. Ponting, and C. Minton. 1978. *Bird Study* 25:181–187. (Turnstones from breeding populations in Finland occur in Britain during autumn migration, stopping to replenish fat reserves before moving on to the west coast of Africa. Winter populations of Turnstones in Britain, Ireland, southwest Europe, and northwest Africa are from populations breeding in Greenland and northeast Canada.) MK

Movements and mortality rates of Great Skuas ringed in Scotland. R. Furness. 1978. *Bird Study* 25:229–238. (Adult annual survivorship is estimated at 93%, and first year survivorship at 80%. Aluminum bands were found to fall off Great Skuas after 2 to 5 years, but monel bands showed little wear over the same period.) MK

Note: We welcome Mike Kowalski to our group of abstractors to cover *Bird Study*.

LD = Lawrence R. DeWeese; MK = Mike Kowalski; MM = Martin K. McNicholl; RT = Robert C. Tweit.