

## Banding Equipment and Techniques

**Use of Velcro for handling birds.** M.F. Passmore. 1979. *Bird-Banding* 59:369. (Three widths of Velcro strip, 150 mm long, are recommended for restraining birds the size of small passerines, medium-sized hawks, and waterfowl. Advantages include low expense, ease of obtaining material, lack of required construction, and that a single strip will allow handling birds of several sizes.) LD

**The effects of age and wear on color bands.** A. Anderson. 1980. *Bird-Banding* 51:213-219. (Color bands of celluloid, Darvic, "Scotchlite" sheet bonded to aluminum strips, and "Scotchcal" fluorescent sheet bonded to blank Monel bands were evaluated for wear and color loss through recoveries of Northern Fulmars (*Fulmaris g. glacialis*). Darvic bands gave the best combination of colorfastness and wear resistance, lasting up to 14 years.) LD

**Trap for capturing shore and seabirds.** J. A. Mills and J. P. Ryder. 1979. *Bird-Banding* 50:121-123. (The construction and usefulness of a simple drop net for capturing 5 species of shore and seabirds is described. The birds trip the trap when they enter it, situated over their nests.) LD

**An evaluation of four wildlife marking materials.** S. A. Nesbitt. 1979. *Bird-Banding* 50:129. (Weym-o-seal material of Weymouth Art Leather Co., South Braintree, MA, was the most durable and had the best colorfastness of 4 materials tested.) LD

**Effects of banding on the tarsus of the White-crowned Sparrow.** S. I. Rothstein. 1979. *Bird-Banding* 50:244-251. (The tarsus of banded White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) acquires a grayish cast, and the diameter swells by about 3% within one month of banding. No evidence indicated that the discoloration or swelling were harmful to the birds.) LD

**The determination of incubation stage in Starling eggs.** E. H. Dunn, D. J. T. Hussell, and R. E. Ricklefs. 1979. *Bird-Banding* 50:114-120. (A regression equation, days of incubation =  $64.64 - 61.60$  (specific gravity)  $\pm 2.83$  days, was calculated to aid in projecting hatch date of European Starlings. The number of eggs that float in water provides a crude estimate of hatching date.) LD

**Longevity of herculite leg jess color markers on the Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*).** S. W. Platt. 1980. *Bird-Banding* 51:281-282. (Herculite material attached to the leg with aluminum pop-rivets and washers lasted 2 to 4 years. This leg marker is not useful for studies requiring a long-term permanent marker, >4 years.) LD

**Effect of delayed reporting of band recoveries on survival rates.** D. R. Anderson and K. P. Burnham. *Bird-Banding* 51:244-247. (Various models are used to conclude that delayed reporting of recovered bands biases estimated annual survival rates negligibly, in a positive direction. Band loss has the opposite effect. Problems caused by delayed reporting of recoveries can be minimized by using the appropriate model.) LD

**A technique for live-trapping nesting Horned Grebes.** R. S. Ferguson. 1980. *Bird-Banding* 51:179-180. (Information is given on construction, use and efficiency of a submerged net trap to capture nesting Horned Grebes of both sexes.) LD

**An evaluation of patagial markers for Cathartid vultures.** M. P. Wallace, P. G. Parker, and S. A. Temple. 1980. *Bird-Banding* 51:309-314. (Cattle ear-tags made of plastic were effective permanent markers, and it was safe to attach small colored vinyl streamers. Marked Black (*Coragyps atratus*) and Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) did not seem to be affected.) LD

**Friendship beads for banders.** B. Duncan. 1984. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* Dec. 1984:2-3.—Box 512, Caledonia, Ont. N0A 1A0—(Two suggestions for easy identification of the right vs. wrong end of a string of bands—use 2 loops of wire over the last band, one over the upcoming, or use "friendship beads" at the "wrong" end.) MM

## Plumages

**A note on albinism in the Great Gray Owl.** R. Scriven. 1984. *Blue Jay* 42:173-174. — 722 Buckingham Road, Winnipeg, Man. R3R 1C2—(Of more than 300 live adult owls handled during banding by Copland and Nero in Manitoba, plus 50 dead birds examined, only 5 have shown abnormal white feathers, and none of 150 banded by Loch in Minn. have shown any albinism.) MM

## North American Banding Results

**The Savannah Sparrow territorial system: can habitat features be related to breeding success?** J. Bedard and G. La Point. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:1819-1828. —Dept. de Biol., Univ. Laval, Sainte-Foy, Que. G1K 7P4—(Breeding success and even obtaining a mate did not relate to several measured features of territories of color-banded sparrows in a Que. population with an unusually high number of bachelor males -20% in 1977, 40% in 1978, and 35% in 1980- and thus presumably a skewed sex ratio.) MM

# Recent Literature

**Notes on mortality of American White Pelicans at Chase Lake, North Dakota.** J. G. Sidle, P. M. Arnold, and R. K. Strand. 1984. *Prairie Nat.* 16:131-134.—U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, Minn. 55111—(Recoveries from banded birds showed no relationship between survival and degree of infestation by chewing lice.) MM

**Manomet Bird Observatory annual report 1983.** Editor not identified. 20 pp. — Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 936, Manomet, Mass. 02345—(Contains message from Chairman and outgoing Executive Director, Kathleen S. Anderson, and brief project summaries involving Atlantic seabird populations, marine mammals and seabirds, Harbor Seals, an international shorebird atlas, passerine banding at Manomet and in Belize, methods of studying environmental impacts, Red Knots, Common Terns and mosquito control. Educational activities and financial matters are also discussed, and 1983 publications listed.) MM

**The Great Gray Owl in Manitoba, 1968-83.** R. W. Nero, H. W. R. Copland, and J. Mezibroski. 1984. *Blue Jay* 42:130-151.—Wildlife Branch, Box 14, 1495 St. James St., Winnipeg, Man. R3H 0W9—(Detailed review of winter and nesting studies since 1969 review, including 450+ birds banded by spring 1984. Banding and color-marking helped sort out numbers and determine movements, as well as various aspects of life history beyond the scope of this article.) MM

**Fifth documented Great Gray Owl nest in Saskatchewan.** C. S. Houston and K. A. Wylie. 1984. *Blue Jay* 42:161-164.—863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8—(Banding expedition to nest, with review of first 5 definite nest records for Sask.) MM

**Leaving the nest.** A rare glimpse at a pivotal moment in the life of a family of Great Gray Owls. R. W. Nero. 1984. *Blue Jay* 42:165-170—Wildlife Branch, Box 14, 1495 St. James St., Winnipeg, Man. R3H 0W9—(While 2 owlets were being removed from the nest for banding, the third left on its own. After all 3 were banded, the female was also caught and banded. Then while all were absent from the nest, the male returned, giving Nero and his colleagues a rare glimpse at male-female and male-young interactions when young fledge in the absence of the male.) MM

## Harris Sparrow Research Award

The Inland Bird Banding Association is seeking research proposals to study the Harris Sparrow. A \$100 stipend will be awarded at the annual banquet in Moline, Illinois. Proposals are to be sent to: Terrence N. Ingram, Chairman, Endowment Fund, Inland Bird Banding Association, Box 155, Apple River, IL 61001.

**Factors affecting site tenacity in New York Bank Swallows.** V. M. Freer. 1979. *Bird-Banding* 50:349-357. (A large percentage of survivors, banded as nestlings, returned to breed at or near the banding site. Site tenacity increased with age, was greater for males than females in the one-year-old class, and was stronger for adults that successfully produced young.) LD

**Survival of Yellow-headed Blackbirds banded in North Dakota.** O. E. Bray, A. M. Gammell, and D. R. Anderson. 1979. *Bird-Banding* 50:252-255. (Recaptures of 6148 immature and 17633 adult banded Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) indicate survival rates of 45.3% and 41.3% for males and females banded as adults. "Adults" include subadult and AHY birds.) LD

**A too friendly Kestrel.** D. Lamb. 1984. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* Dec. 1984:3.—4-64 Cedar St., Guelph, Ont. N1G 1C5—(Unusually docile male banded in Jan. 1983 returned in March 1984, and was equally docile when handled.) MM

**Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station.** Twelfth annual report: 1982. D. and S. Fowler. "1983" (1984). *Ont. Bird Banding* 16(2):3-13; Recoveries, foreign retraps, returns and repeats. S. Fowler *Ont. Bird Banding* 16(2):14-19.—17 Fifth Ave., St. Thomas, Ont. N5R 4C2—(In spite of vandalism, the station got off to its best start in years, with 172 raptors banded in 3 days, only to be struck by vandals again. 1982 ended as the poorest banding year overall since 1973, but the American Kestrel nest box program had its second best year and the first nestings by birds banded locally as nestlings.) MM

**Red-tailed Hawks banded at Hawk Cliff, Ontario 1971-1982.** Analysis of data. B. W. Duncan. "1983" (1984). *Ont. Bird Banding* 16(2):20-29—Box 512, Caledonia, Ont. N0A 1A0—(Of 105 recoveries from 3012 hawks banded at Hawk Cliff, on Lake Erie in the fall, almost all are to the south, with none west of L. Michigan, and only one east of Ontario—just over the border in Que. Tables show numbers banded each year since 1975 in relation to banding effort, number banded in comparison with sightings, and minimum age at band encounter. The oldest was at least 9 years old. A graph compares HY vs. AHY banded with date, Sept-Dec, with almost 82% banded as HY.) MM

**The diurnal migration of passerines along an Appalachian ridge.** G. A. Hall and R. K. Bell. 1981. *Amer. Birds* 35:135-137.—Dept. of Chemistry, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV. 26506—(Migration data, with special emphasis on banding, at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, with brief discussion of several bird groups, recoveries, and history of the observatory.) MM

# Recent Literature

**Eastern reintroduction.** Anonymous. 1984. *Peregrine Fund Newsletter* No. 12:2.—159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850—(Summarizes sightings of color-banded birds in the summer of 1984, with a map. Several other articles contain brief mention of sightings of banded birds.) MM

**The response of Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*) to the playback of undegraded and degraded songs.** P. K. McGregor and J. B. Falls. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:2125-2128.—Edward Grey Inst. Field Ornithol., Dept. Zool, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS England—(Male Western Meadowlarks, about half of which were color-banded, responded more strongly to playback of undegraded songs than to degraded songs played at the same amplification and territory position if the song type was in the bird's normal repertoire, suggesting that song degradation provides cues to distances of potential territorial intruders.) MM

**Production in Spruce Grouse and its relationship to environmental factors and population parameters.** K. E. Smyth and D. A. Boag. 1984. *Can. J. Zool.* 62:2250-2257.—Dept. of Zool, Univ. Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E9.—(A number of environmental parameters were examined from 16 years of data in a population in which most young have been tagged with wing tags until 40 days old, and then re-captured and color-banded. Some also carry radio-transmitters, and mark-recapture data indicate that in some years censuses have included virtually 100% of the population.) MM

**Effects of pesticides on reproductive success of White-faced Ibis in Utah, 1979.** B. B. Steele. 1984. *Colonial Waterbirds* 7:80-87.—Dept. of Fisheries & Wildl., and Ecol. Center, Utah State Univ., Logan, Utah 84322—(Of 2800 ibis color-banded as chicks between 1973 and 1975, only 9 were sighted in 1978, implying low fidelity to hatch sites for subsequent nestings.) MM

**Influence of age on the breeding biology of Common Terns.** I. C. T. Nisbet, J. M. Winchell, and A. E. Heise. 1984. *Colonial Waterbirds* 7:117-126.—6208 Lakeview Drive, Falls Church, Va. 22041.—(Banded Common Terns in Mass. between ages 2 and 9 showed a tendency for older birds to lay earlier, with larger clutches and larger eggs, higher fledging success, and probably slightly higher hatching success than younger birds. Birds 4 years or less occupied lower nest sites closer to tide level than older birds, and were more often washed out. Birds tend to mate with others of similar age. Laying dates, clutch sizes and egg sizes showed significant differences between 2 colonies at all age classes between 4 and 10. At age 12 and beyond, birds laid smaller clutches and smaller eggs than younger birds.) MM

## Foreign Banding Results

**Results of the Middlesex Field Study Centre, I to IV 1976 to 1981.** R. and M. Brown. 1978-1981, reprinted & bound together in book form by Western Australian Group, Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union. pp. i-ii+1-78. (These 4 reports include banding totals for each year, primarily at one Australian site, with levels of avian pox, especially in Silvereyes. Deformities are also listed in the last 3 reports. Nest records and details of behavior at individual nests, often with color-banded birds are interspersed through the reports, including a record of 4 males attending 1 female at a nest of White-breasted Robins. Banding also demonstrated the presence of helpers at other White-breasted Robin nests. Attempts to dye Silvereyes were complicated by loss of dyed feathers through molt and spread of dye to non-dyed birds by allopreening or other close contact. Detailed observations of a color-banded helper at the nest of Yellow-rumped Thornbills provided insights into development of learning in this species and indicated that help was afforded primarily in feeding the young both in and out of the nest.) MM

**Unusual waders at Langebaan.** M. Waltner. 1981. *Safring News* 10:9-11. (Mongolian Sandplover and Red-necked Phalarope, unusual for this South African area, were caught in mist nets. Measurements are given for these and the Greater Sandplover for comparison.) MM

LD = Lawrence R. DeWeese; MM = Martin K. McNicholl

