Recent Literature

Edited by Martin K. McNicholl

Banding Equipment and Techniques

The use of falconry hoods in handling Australian Kestrels. J. W. Hardy. 1983. *Corella* 7:41-43. - Box 66, Springwood, New South Wales 2777, Australia - (Details of hood design and application to keep especially aggressive individuals calm during handling; basic design may be "scaled either up or down" to suit other raptor species.) MKM

The use of jacknife confidence intervals with the Richards curve for describing avian growth patterns. D. W. Bradley, R. E. Landry, and C. T. Collins. 1984. *Bull. South. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 83:133-147. - Dept. Data Processing & Inform. Systems, Calif. State Univ., Long Beach, Calif. 90840 - (Weight samples of Burrowing Owls and Least Terns in Calif. were used to test a method of measuring growth patterns in birds by using a Richards curve to obtain summary statistics from raw growth data. Differences in scope of inference from different levels of sampling are discussed, especially in relation to intraspecific and interspecific comparisons among populations.) MKM

Breeding bird censuses: an evaluation of four methods for use in Sclerophyll forest. J. M. Shields and H. F. Recher. 1984. *Corella* 8:29-41. - Forestry Comm., N.S.W., Box 100, Beecroft 2119 N.S.W., Australia - (Mist nets can be useful in censusing birds, but are labor intensive and their reliability varies with weather and among species. Color banding helped map territories, sort out movements of wide-ranging birds, and sort out numbers in species that breed colonially or semi-colonially and those in which non-breeding birds are included among social groups near the nest.) MKM

What are your preferred numbers? G. D. Bell. 1984. *Corella* 8:52. - 48/23 Toronto Rd., Marsfield, N.S.W. 2112, Australia - (An examination of 300 wingspan measurements of White-plumed Honeyeaters by one observer showed a bias for measurements ending in 2 or 5 at the expense of 3 or 4. The author cautions other banders to be aware of such unconscious biases in measuring birds, especially those "which depend on a large extent on the cooperation of the bird.") MKM

Practical uses of a ring stock book. D. M. Skead. 1983. *Safring News* 12:6-7. - Barberspan Ornithol.Res. Stn., P.O. Barberspan 2765, South Africa - (Use of a ring stock book to keep track of supplies and to avoid over-recording of returns, such as a female Southern Pochard that was recaptured at Barberspan 290 times in one year!) MKM

Identification, Plumages, Molt, Weights and Measurements

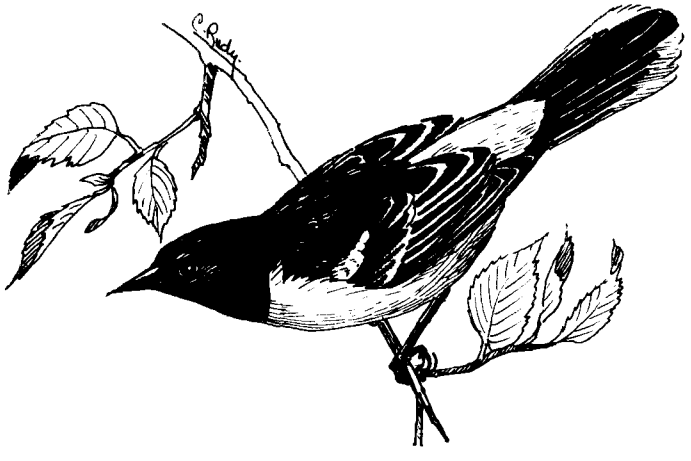
Ageing and moult variations in Mistletoebirds. J. Liddy. 1984. *Corella* 8:42-45. - 5 Ben St., Chermside, Qld. 4032, Australia - (Most male Mistletoebirds can be classified into three age groups by plumage, while in females separation of juveniles from immatures is less reliable. Most (68%) males lose tertial flight feathers and wing coverts during post-juvenile molt, but molt pattern is more variable in about 32%) MKM

Morphometric data and dimorphism indices of some Australian raptors. D. J. Baker-Gabb. 1984. *Corella* 8:61-63. - Roy. Austr. Ornithol. Union, 21 Gladstone St., Moonee Ponds, Victoria 3039, Australia - (Data on 20 species of diurnal raptor, designed to help banders determine sex in the hand.) MKM

Footprinting of raptors for identification. E. H. Stauber. 1984. *Raptor Res.* 18:67-71. - Dept. of Vet. Sci. & W.O.I. Reg. Progr. in Vet. Med. Ed., Univ. Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843 - (Studies of captive Peregrines and Red-tailed Hawks indicate unique individual footprints that can be used as safeguard against loss or illegal switching of bands.) MKM

Body weights of adult and juvenile Lesser Redpolls in central and southern England. M. Boddy. 1984. *Ring. & Migr.* 5:91-100. (Almost 10,000 Common Redpoll weights were analyzed by month, sex and age.) RCT

An attempt at sexing Whitebrowed Sparrowweavers. R. A. Earle. 1983. *Safring News* 12:3-5. - Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa - (Birds with dark bills are probably all males, and most with horn-colored bills are females. Dominant males show longest wing lengths, but most measurements are unreliable indicators of sex.) MKM



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Aberrant Woodland Kingfisher. D. B. Hanmer. 1983. *Safring News* 12:11-14; Comments on "aberrant Woodland Kingfishers." C. H. Fry. *Safring News* 12:14-15. - Sucoma, P/Bag 50, Blantyre, Malawi - (Details of 4 individuals caught at Nehalo, Malawi that showed patches of red in the normally uniform black lower mandible, with comparison of measurements of these 4 birds with those of 27 normal individuals caught at the same locality. Fry, the recognized World expert on kingfishers, confirms the extreme rarity of this feature, never having encountered it in museum skins or while working with live birds in Nigeria. The possibility of hybridization with Mangrove Kingfishers is discussed.) MKM

Onset and pattern of primary moult in the Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus f. fuscus* - a comparison with the Herring Gull. M. Hario. 1984. *Ornis Fennica* 61:19-23. - (Although previous studies indicated that Lesser Black-backed Gulls do not begin molt on breeding grounds, a study of shed primaries in the Gulf of Finland and of some museum skins indicates that 12-34% do start molt of the innermost 2 or 3 primaries at breeding colonies, with about 20% of these molting in a stepwise fashion. Unlike Herring Gulls, which continue to molt during migration, Lesser Black-backs interrupt molt while on migration.) MKM

Moult chronology of American Wigeon, *Anas americanus,* in relation to reproduction. R. A. Wishart. 1985. *Can. Field-Nat.* 99:172-178. - Ducks Unlimited Canada, 1190 Waverley St., Winnipeg, Man. R3T 2E2 - (Collections in B.C., Sask., and Man. showed that first-winter birds arrived on breeding grounds in alternate I plumage after asynchronous prealternate I molt. A partial molt of body contour feathers was more extensive in females than in males. Pre-basic molt in males occurred on large lakes and marshes after a molt migration, with prealternate molt shortly thereafter before fall migration, while females underwent much prealternate molt in late winter and during spring migration, with prebasic molt either after nests failed or broods were abandoned, some molting on the breeding grounds, others on male molting grounds.) MKM

North American Banding Results

Caution needed in use of playbacks to census bird populations. M. K. McNicholl. 1981. *Amer. Birds* 35:234-235 - Long Point Bird Observ., Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0 - (Observations on color-banded male Blue Grouse showed seasonal responses to playbacks of male and female calls, whereby more males than territory holders responded in some periods, only territorial males in others, and few birds or none at certain times. Thus, censuses by response to taped playbacks of each type of call in this species could be distorted up or down.) MKM

Prince Edward Point Observatory: banding year 1983. H. R. Quilliam; Recoveries, foreign retraps and returns. R. Weir; Northern Saw-whet Owls. R. Weir. 1984. *Blue Bill suppl. 31:20-24, reprinted in Ont. Bird Banding* 16(3):3-9, "1983." - 161 Willingdon Ave., Kingston, Ont. K7L 4H9 - (In 1983, banding was restricted to waterfowl and N. Saw-whet Owls, but recoveries are also given for other species. 990 ducks of 8 species and 1 hybrid were banded on Amherst Is., with 66 Mallard recoveries, and smaller numbers of 5 other duck species. Reports were received of 7 non-duck species, including a Caspian Tern recovered in Dominican Republic and a Black-billed Cuckoo in El Salvador. 410 N. Saw-whet Owls were banded (58% AHY), for a cumulative total of 3592 in 9 years. The 1983 flight was later than the 8-year average.) MKM

Status of a population of Bald Eagles wintering in western Connecticut. S. D. Faccio and H. I. Russock. 1984. *Raptor Res.* 18:77-78. - Dept. Biol. & Environ. Sci., W. Conn. State Univ., Danbury, Conn. 06810. - (Of 17 eagles wintering near a dam, 9 were believed to be transients. Two of these were known by bands or transmitters to have come from Maine, and 2 others were known to have been banded elsewhere.) MKM

Breeding ecology of the Horned Grebe, *Podiceps auritus,* in southwestern Manitoba. R. S. Ferguson and S. G. Sealy. 1983. *Can. Field-Nat.* 97:401-408. - Wildl. Mgmt. Div., Dept. Renewable Resources, Govt. N.W.T., Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2L9 - (Banding of 42 adults and 7 young, including 12 males and 9 females that were also color-dyed, helped determine that pairs will renest up to 3 times after nest loss but will rarely lay a second clutch after the first hatch, and that some parents divide parental care of chicks.) MKM

Recoveries of Saskatchewan-banded White-winged Scoters. *Melanitta fusca.* C. S. Houston and P.W. Brown. 1983. *Can. Field-Nat.* 97:454-455. - 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 - (Recoveries of 11 females banded at nests and 12 locals or juveniles. Twelve were recovered to the west, primarily on the Pacific coast, 2 locally, 8 to the east, and one south on the Gulf coast. Since scoters do not nest until at least 2 years of age, a female recovered 13½ years after capture as a nesting adult, sets a new longevity record for this species of at least 15½ years.) MKM