

Books *continued*

Birds of the Canadian Rockies. George W. Scotter, Tom J. Ulrich, and Edgar T. Jones. 1990. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon. xvi + 170 pp. \$22.95 Can., paperback.

This introduction to birds of regular occurrence in the Canadian Rockies, straddling the Alberta-British Columbia border, is a showcase of delightful photographs by Ulrich, Jones and others. The book consists of a brief introduction on the purposes of the book and general information (including three good maps) on the Canadian portion of the Rocky Mountains, species accounts, a glossary and topographic illustration, a checklist organized by major regions (mostly parks) in the area, a list of selected references, and indices of "common" (i.e., English) and scientific names. The bulk of the book consists of species accounts of one paragraph per species, organized as two or three per page, each facing one to two photograph(s) of the species.

Although the introduction suggests that the book is intended as a guide for beginners, the authors admit that the photographs are not entirely adequate for a field guide and urge the reader to use this book with a proper field guide. The text certainly omits many of the details that would be required of a field guide (for example, the brown iris of younger Red-eyed Vireos is not mentioned), and some of the distinguishing features mentioned are rather outdated (e.g., Cooper's vs. Sharp-shinned Hawks and the two redpoll species). The text is generally written well, with few inaccuracies, apart from a few slightly misleading statements and anthropomorphic interpretations (e.g., Clark's Nutcracker doesn't just "look and act" like a crow--taxonomically it is one and several structures or behaviors are said to be "for" some purpose or other). Proof-reading lapses are also few; I noticed only two of significance (flavipc for flavipes on p. 54 and Stellar's Jay in the checklist, spelled correctly as Steller's in the text). Canadian readers will be mildly irritated by the use of U.S. spelling in a Canadian-published book.

As banding is not mentioned in this book and bands are not evident in the photographs, its specific interest to banders will be to note the superb photographic skills of veteran bander, Edgar T. Jones. Overall, this is a worthwhile introduction to the birds of a fascinating area, though neither a thorough field guide nor a comprehensive avifaunal work.

Martin K. McNicholl

Recent Literature

Banding History and Biographies

Migratory insights through banding. Part one. R. Kochenberger. 1983. *Newsletter of the Hawk Migration Assoc. of North Amer.* 8(2):39-40. -Cape May Bird Observ., Box 3, Cape May Point, NJ. 08212 -(Brief history and summary of value of banding in migration studies.) MKM

Banding Equipment and Techniques

The use of banding recovery data to estimate dispersal rates and gene flow in avian species: case studies in the Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle. W.S. Moore and R.A. Dolbeer. 1989. *Condor* 91:242-253. -Denver Wildl. Res. Center, USDA, 6100 Columbus Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870 -(Title describes contents.) RCT

Avian laparoscopy as a field technique for sexing birds and an assessment of its effects on wild birds. H. Richner. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:137-142. -Institute de Zoologie et d'Ecol. animale, Univ. de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland -(The technique is faster and less harmful than laparotomy, but the apparatus costs about \$2500 U.S.) RCT

An improved waterfowl enclosure: considering animal welfare as a research priority. D.S. Davis and H.A. Allen, Jr. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:162-167. -Chesapeake Wildl. Heritage, Box 1745, Easton, MD 21601 -(An enclosure with opaque sides reduces stress and injury to the birds.) RCT

Solar radio transmitters on Snail Kites in Florida. N.F.R. Snyder, S.R. Beissinger and M.R. Fuller. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:171-177. -USFWS Patuxent Wildl. Res. Center, Laurel, MD 20708 -(Intact back-pack transmitters were seen on birds up to 47 months after attachment.) RCT

Toenail-clipping: a simple technique for marking individual nidicolous chicks. V.L. St. Louis, J.C. Barlow and J.-P.R.A. Sweerts. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:211-215. -Dept. Ornithol., Roy. Ont. Mus., Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6 -(Tree Swallows and House Wrens were clipped within 3 days of hatching.) RCT

Tenured ringing sites. S.E. Piper. 1988. *Safring News* 17:41-42. -Dept. Survey & Mapping, Univ. Natal, King George V Ave., Durban, South Africa 4001 -(An editorial on the advantages of long-term banding sites in southern Africa, but mostly applicable anywhere.) MKM

Recent Literature *continued*

Identification, Molts, Plumages, Weights, and Measurements

Ageing and sexing. Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrid*. P. Barnard. 1988. *Safring News* 17:79-83. -Dept. Zool., Univ. of the Witwatersrand, Box Wits, Johannesburg 2050, South Africa -(Bill color and degree of blackness help determine sex, and to some extent age, but precise determination requires considerably more research.) MKM

Northern Shrike returns. K.E. Bartel. 1983. *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter* 5(2):4. -2528 W. Collins St., Blue Island, IL 60406 -(Bird had light gray eye as HY, greenish-olive eye when recaptured one year later.) MKM

Bird in the hand. Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*. W.J.M. Vestjens. 1983. *Corella* 7:17-18. -deceased -(Details of age and sex differences based on 7-year field and captive study.) MKM

Melanistic traits in Downy Woodpecker noted. M.L. Meyers. 1983. *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter* 5(3):1. -1621 Highland Dr., Independence, MO. 64057 -(In 28 years of banding this species in Missouri, 2 showed melanism. One that was not noted to exhibit melanistic features when banded did show such features when recaptured 9 months later.) MKM

North American Banding Results

Recapture of a non-breeding Boreal Owl two years later. T.W. Carpenter. 1985. *Raptor Res.* 19:142. -3646 S. John Hix, Wayne, MI 48184 -(Banded by W.A. Lamb at Whitefish Point, Mich. in May 1982 and recaptured there by Carpenter in April 1984.) MKM

Calgary area bluebird trails, 1988. D. Stiles. 1989. *Pica* 9(1):12-18. -20 Lake Wapta Rise SE, Calgary, Alta. T2T 2M9 -(1487 Mountain Bluebirds and 963 Tree Swallows were banded in the Calgary area in 1988, while 39 bluebirds and 47 swallows banded in previous years were recaptured. One Tree Swallow that returned to the box in which it had been banded in 1987 had acquired a second band of as yet unknown origin in the meantime.) MKM

Mallard survival from local to immature stage in southwestern Saskatchewan. J.B. Hestbeck, A. Dzubin, J.B. Gollop, and J.D. Nichols. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:428-431. -USFWS, Patuxent Wildl. Res. Center, Laurel, MD 20708 -(Banding recoveries were analyzed.) RCT

Habitat use and movements of female Ring-necked Pheasants during fall and winter. R.G. Gatti, R.T. Dumke and C.M. Pils. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:462-475. -Wis. Dept. Nat. Resources, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Madison, WI 53711 -(Pheasants were followed by radio telemetry after being fitted with back-mounted transmitters.) RCT

Brood habitat use by Eastern Wild Turkeys in eastern Texas. J.J. Campo, W.G. Swank, and C.R. Hopkins. 1989. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 53:479-482. -Dept. Wildl. & Fis. Sci., Texas A & M Univ., College Station, TX 77843 -(Radio-equipped females were followed.) RCT

Food supply and reproductive performance of the American Oystercatcher in Virginia. E. Nol. 1989. *Condor* 91:429-435. -Dept. Biol., Trent Univ., Peterborough, Ont. K9J 7B8 -(Color-banded birds were followed.) RCT

Natal dispersal of Eastern Screech-Owls. J.R. Belthoff and G. Richison. 1989. *Condor* 91:254-265. -Dept. Bio. Sci., Eastern Kentucky Univ., Richmond, KY 40475 -(Entire families were equipped with back-pack radio transmitters and their movements were followed.) RCT

Survival and longevity of White-winged Scoters nesting in central Saskatchewan. F.P. Kehoc, P.W. Brown, and C.S. Houston. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:130-136. -863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 -(One female was at least 18 years old.) RCT

Gadwall pair recaptured in successive winters on the southern high plains of Texas. A.M. Fedynich and R.D. Godfrey, Jr. 1989. *J. Field Ornithol.* 60:168-170. -Dept. Range & Wildl. Manage., Texas Tech. Univ., Lubbock, TX 79409 -(A pair was observed in 2 successive winters, as part of a small population.) RCT

Population ecology of the Harris' Hawk in Arizona. W.H. Whaley. 1986. *Raptor Res.* 20:1-15. -Dept. Zool., 574 WIDB, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, UT 84602 -(Of 612 young hawks banded in 1977, one drowned in a livestock tank the following year. Color marking showed winter flocks to be family groups, that juveniles do not disperse far from the nest site, and that if adults nest twice in one year, the young of the first brood helped feed the young of the second, the first published example of "helpers at the nest" in raptors.) MKM

Recent Literature *continued*

Development of hunting and self-sufficiency in juvenile Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*). S.J. Johnson. 1986. *Raptor Res.* 20:29-34. -Box 634, Bozeman, MT 59715 -(As determined from 10 juveniles fitted with radio transmitters in 1972 and 6 in 1973.) MKM

Postfledging behavior of Ferruginous Hawks in North Dakota. P.M. Konrad and D.S. Gilmer. 1986. *Raptor Res.* 20:35-39. -418-18 St., Bismarck, ND 58501 -(Studies of post-fledging behavior of 18 Ferruginous Hawks marked with colored tail streamers showed that fledglings remained within the home range of their parents from 10 to 40 days after fledging (mean 23.2 days), that family groups broke up gradually, and that both adults and fledglings used hayfields and native prairie grasslands more than other local habitats.) MKM

The behavioral response of a Red-tailed Hawk to military activity. D.E. Anderson, O.J. Rongstad, and W.R. Mylten. 1986. *Raptor Res.* 20:65-68. -Dept. Wildl. Ecol., Univ. Wisconsin, Madison WI 53706 -(Radio-tracking of nesting male in Colo. showed temporary shifts in location of activity during bouts of military exercise.) MKM

Banding - Calgary area - 1988. D. Stiles. 1989. *Alta. Nat.* 19:12. -20 Lake Wapta Rise S.E., Calgary, Alta. T2J 2M9 -(1487 Mountain Bluebirds and 963 Tree Swallows were banded in the Calgary area, Alta. in 1988, while 39 bluebirds and 47 swallows banded in previous years were recaptured.) MKM

Behavior and habitat use of Northern Harriers in southwestern Idaho. J.W. Martin. 1987. *J. Raptor Res.* 21:57-66. -46-772, Bureau of Reclamation, Box 11568, Salt Lake City, UT 84147 -(Radio telemetry and color banding showed significantly higher use of riparian habitat by males than predicted on the basis of habitat availability and that males shifted from hunting predominantly voles to predominantly lizards when alfalfa growth reached 46 cm. At this point, the birds shifted from hunting over alfalfa fields to using shrub-steppe habitat.) MKM

Observations of a radio-tagged Golden Eagle terminating fall migration. R.D. Applegate, D.D. Berger, W.W. Cochran and A.J. Raim. 1987. *J. Raptor Res.* 21:68-70. -Box 70, Orono, ME 04473 -(An eagle tagged during migration in late Nov. 1974 in Wisc. moved 215 km at an average of 43 km/day to its apparent wintering grounds in Ill., where its rate of movement from late Nov.

until early Jan. was 3 km/day. During this early winter period, the eagle averaged 1.7 kill attempts/day, and also fed on carrion.) MKM

Common Barn-Owls from captive propagation found nesting in the wild. R.J. Henke and W.C. Crawford. 1987. *J. Raptor Res.* 21:74. -Rt. 1, Box 31, New Haven, MO 63068 -(Several sightings of banded nesting Barn-Owls in Missouri were suspected of involving birds released from a captive breeding project. The bands of one female found dead under her nest and of a pair captured at another site confirmed that all had been captive-raised.) MKM

What is the function of undulating flight display in Golden Eagles? A.R. Harmata. 1982. *Raptor Res.* 16:103-109. -Dept. Biol., Montana State Univ., Bozeman, MT 59717 -(Observations of a combination of banded, radio-tagged and distinctively plumaged eagles suggest that the primary function of this display is gender-specific aggressive and territorial, rather than pair-bonding.) MKM

Foreign Banding Results

Electric power lines: a cause of mortality in *Pelecanus crispus* Bruch., a world endangered bird species, in Porto-Lago, Greece. A.J. Crivelli, H. Jerrentrup and T. Mitcher. 1988. *Colonial Waterbirds* 11:301-305. -Station Biologique de la Tour du Valet, Le Sambue, 13200 Arles, France. -(Color-banding helped sort pelicans killed on wintering grounds in northern Greece into populations breeding in Bulgaria and Greece, and to estimate the effects of this mortality on each population.) MKM

Notes on the breeding cycle of Cape Vultures (*Gyps caprotheres*). A.S. Robertson. 1986. *Raptor Res.* 20:51-60. -Dept. Zool., Univ. Natal, Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa -(Copulation attempts in pairs in which one or both adults was/were color-banded enabled observers to determine sex and therefore sex roles, such as more collection of nesting material by males and more packing of the material into the nest by females.) MKM

Bird weights from the Orange Free State (Part II: Passerines). J.J. Herholdt. 1988. *Safring News* 17:43-55. -Nossob Restcamp, Kalahari Gemsbok Natl. Park, Private Bag X5890, P.O. Gemsbok Park, 8815, South Africa -(Weights, primarily of adults of 89 species, divided into sex where possible and detailed by season for 9 species for which sample size warranted.) MKM

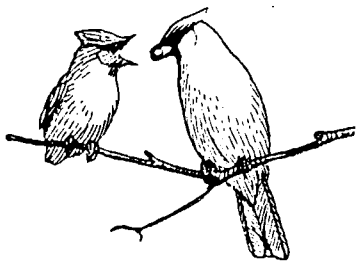
Recent Literature *continued*

Observations of colour-ringed Cape Sugarbirds of Kirstenbosch. D. Oschadleus and M. Fraser. 1988. *Safring News* 17:59-64. -30 Reynold St., Dundee, 3000, South Africa -(Observations of color-banded birds suggest that the population consists of both territorial birds and others that wander widely, including six observed in the study area but banded elsewhere. Tail length is not as reliable an indicator of sex as suggested previously.) MKM

Monitoring territory, survival and breeding in the Longtailed Wagtail. S.E. Piper and D.M. Schultz. 1988. *Safring News* 17:65-76. -Dept. Surveying and Mapping, Univ. Natal, King George V Ave., Durban, 4001, South Africa -(Color banding in Natal showed that territories of wagtails along rivers there are strictly linear and all-purpose, ranging from 400 to 900 m, mean 590 m. Only territorial birds breed and they tend to use the same nest annually, averaging 2.55 breeding attempts per pair per year. Survival rates of adults is about 95% per annum, fledglings presumably dispersing to other areas.) MKM

Red Knot *Calidris canutus rogersi* in Australia. Part I: sub-species confirmation, distribution and migration. M. Barter, A. Jessop, and C. Minton. 1988. *Stilt* 12:29-32 and reprinted in *Wader Study Group Bull.* 54:17-20, 1988. -21 Chivalry Ave., Glen Waverly, Vic. 3150, Australia -(Measurements of birds captured in Australia compared with data from all races elsewhere confirm the subspecies as the Siberian race. There have been 8 exchanges of banded birds between Australia and New Zealand, all but one banded initially in Australia. Five Australian-banded knots have also been recovered in eastern China.) MKM

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl
RCT = Robert C. Tweit



News, Notes, Comments

Unusual Recovery of a Golden-crowned Sparrow

A bird banded during migration and then recovered and released in a subsequent migration is a rare event for passerine banders. Such a recovery could tell us a great deal about the "normal" migration of birds. Chance recovery of dead banded birds has played a large part in our understanding of migration routes and causes of mortality. Too often, however, we forget that a bird found dead is one who, by definition, was selected against, no matter how the bird died. It is very likely that such birds present a biased view of normal migration or mortality. We feel that a rather unusual recovery of a live bird contributes something to our understanding of migration.

Vroman was at the 1988 Western Bird Banding Association meeting at the Ralph banding station on the coast near Arcata, California when some 50 birds were captured and released over a three-day period. Among these were a few previously unbanded Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), one of which was a young (HY) bird, banded on 9 October 1988. This bird was not caught again during the 1988-89 winter, despite an intensive netting and trapping effort covering approximately 250 ha. around the original capture site. We presume it moved to its wintering grounds further south.

A year (less a day) later, on 8 October 1989, Vroman was netting near Grants Pass, Oregon, 190 km NNW of Arcata. He recovered the very same bird banded a year earlier in Arcata, along with 23 other golden-crowns and a single "Puget Sound" White-crowned Sparrow (*Z. leucophrys pugatensis*). Among the other golden-crowns was a recaptured bird he had banded at this same location on 16 January 1989, apparently a winter resident since migrants have long passed by January. It appeared that the majority of the birds caught in October were migrating, as most were not in the vicinity in the next few days as he continued observations and netting. In addition, the white-crown is very rare in the area and was the only one caught this season.

Unless the golden-crown hitched a ride in the back of Vroman's pickup to Grants Pass, an unlikely event, the bird was captured on migration both times. As an adult in the 1989 migration season the bird was possibly taking a more inland route avoiding the hazards of coastal migration, possibly having experienced the rigors of an offshore flight the previous season. The capture of a bird twice in migration is a rare event, and the circumstances of these two captures lend support to the hypothesis (Ralph, *Bird-banding* 49:237-247, 1978) that many of the young birds found in high proportion along the coast have orientation problems. Apparently these birds either: (1) are eliminated from the population by flights taking them too far offshore to return; or (2) learn from their experience (as may have occurred in this case) and migrate inland in later years as adults.

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