

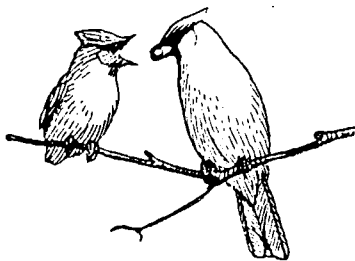
Recent Literature *continued*

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
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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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