

# Banded North American Birds Encountered in Europe: An Update

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**I**t seems appropriate to bring up to date the series I began in 1981 on North American birds furnishing recoveries and encounters in Europe. As in my earlier papers (Dennis 1981 and 1987), I am omitting treatment of Brant (*Branta bernicula*), which migrate regularly from northern Canada to Europe, and birds banded in Greenland. Using the word "encounter" to describe both encounters and recoveries of banded North American birds recorded in Europe, the total number of such birds at this writing is 76. I supplied information on 50 of these encounters in my first paper and 11 in my second paper. During the interim since my second paper appeared, 15 more encounters have been reported to me by the Banding Office. My purpose in preparing this paper is to supply information on these additional encounters (Table 1), to provide in abbreviated form a listing of all 76 encounters showing sites of bandings and encounters according to political divisions (Table 2), and finally a listing of total number of encounters per political division (country, other political entity, or island group). This listing is shown in Table 3.

Several reported encounters are not included because of incomplete information or suspicion of error. More recent ones have been carefully screened by Danny Bystrak of the Bird Banding Laboratory and seem safe to include. Nevertheless, there is **always** a margin of error involved in listing encounters. Difficulty in distinguishing between Arctic and Common Terns when in the nestling stage is an example that sometimes confronts banders.

As more and more encounters of banded North American birds are recorded from Europe, a pattern is beginning to emerge. Some species have been reported often enough to suggest that they appear in western Europe on a regular basis--perhaps as migrants. Others, that are rarely reported, seem to fit the status of accidental or stray.

Pelagic birds with three or more encounters from waters or shores of western Europe include the Northern Fulmar (3), Leach's Storm-Petrel (3), and Northern Gannet (3). Waterfowl with three or more encounters include the Green-winged Teal (3), Northern Pintail (3), Blue-winged

Teal (13), and American Wigeon (5). Shorebirds with three or more encounters include the Ruddy Turnstone (3), and Red Knot (9). Gulls and terns with three or more encounters include the Ring-billed Gull (5) and Arctic Tern (4).

Likely strays are Little Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Duck, American Coot, and Semipalmated Sandpiper--all encountered in the Azores and nowhere else. An Upland Sandpiper encountered in Spain is another example of this kind. Islands in the Azores have afforded a surprising number of encounters of North American banded birds, especially strays.

## TRANSMISSION OF LYME DISEASE

On the basis of recent information, the nymph stage of the deer tick (*Ixodes dammini*) a species responsible for transmitting Lyme disease, is carried by as many as 49 species of birds as well as a number of mammals (Steere, 1989). In the same paper it is stated that the disease is particularly prevalent on the East Coast and in the Midwest of the United States and is also present in Europe. Ground-nesting and ground-feeding birds are more subject to being infested with the tick (Garland 1990). In light of this information, bird species that nest in North America and fly regularly to Europe could be responsible for disseminating the disease to distant regions. But most species supplying records that appear in this paper nest north of the deer tick's range and, therefore, are not likely to be involved. Some suspicion, however, can be attached to more southerly nesting ducks, gulls, and terns.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Individuals and organizations in Europe that have reported finding American banded birds have contributed greatly to the success of this study and deserve whole-hearted thanks. Some of the most valuable data have been supplied by groups conducting ringing (banding) operations. A Red Knot caught and released at St. Kilda off the western coast of Scotland was caught 14 days later at the

same place. The Walney Island Bird Observatory in Cumbria in northwestern England has supplied records of a Red Knot and two Ruddy Turnstones banded on breeding grounds in northern Canada. A Ruddy Turnstone encountered at Walney Island in August 1987 returned two years later (August 1989). An American Wigeon trapped and released at the Fair Island Bird Observatory, Fair Island, Scotland, was shot 70 days later in Ireland.

Those who did the banding on this side of the Atlantic and gave permission to use their records also deserve special thanks. Canadian personnel, for the most part banding under the auspices of the Canadian Wildlife Service, were acknowledged in previous papers and again deserve thanks for giving permission to use their latest reports. In addition, I wish to thank John M. C. Peterson of the High Peaks Audubon Society for permission to use his Black-crowned Night-Heron record; Larry R. Ditto of the Pungo

National Wildlife Refuge for his Wood Duck record; Dr. Ian C. T. Nisbet for his Common Tern record; Dr. Murray Whitmore of the University of Michigan for his Upland Sandpiper record; and Dr. Charles E. Huntington of Bowdoin College for his Leach's Storm-Petrel record.

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**Table 1.** Encounters of banded North American birds in Europe since last report.

**Leach's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

111-126037: Banded: Seal Cove, New Brunswick, Canada, 13 July 1986. Encountered: Found dead. St. Herblain, Province of Loire Atlantique, France, 12 January 1988.

111-132203: Banded: Egg Rock, Maine, USA, 17 July 1980. Encountered: Mist netted and released, Ellioacy, Iceland, 21 August 1988.

**Northern Gannet** (*Morus bassanus*)

638-73634: Banded: Funk Island, Newfoundland, Canada, 19 August 1984. Encountered: Oiled and died, Newport, Co. Mayo, Ireland, March 1988.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

1337-84427: Banded: Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain, New York, USA, 11 June 1988. Encountered: Shot, Island of Terceira, Azores, 16 October 1988.

**Wood Duck** (*Aix sponsa*)

835-93261: Banded: Pungo National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina, USA, 11 August 1984. Encountered: Shot, Flores, Azores, August 1985.

**American Black Duck** (*Anas rubripes*)

917-58891: Banded: Gloucester Co., New Brunswick, Canada, 5 September 1970. Encountered: Unspecified, Heligoland, West Germany, 10 February 1988.

**Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*)

835-67952: Banded: Angiers, Quebec, Canada, 6 August 1982. Encountered: Found dead, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland, September 1982.

**American Wigeon** (*Anas americana*)

876-62817: Banded: Shepody Bay National Wildlife Area, New Brunswick, Canada, 13 August 1986. Encountered: trapped and released, Fair

Island, Scotland, 21 September 1986. Second Encounter: Shot, Bannon Bay, Co. Wexford, Ireland, 30 November 1986.

**Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*)

987-27721: Banded: Fundy Park, New Brunswick, Canada (released in hacking operation), 18 July 1986. Encountered: Captured by falconer, Norwich, Norfolk, England, 24 December 1986. Escaped 25 days later.

**Upland Sandpiper** (*Bartramia longicauda*)

1163-19030: Banded: Pellston, Michigan, USA, 5 July 1988. Encountered: Shot near Seville, Spain, 2 December 1988.

**Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*)

1313-50721: Banded: Ellesmere Island, Northwest Territories, Canada, 1 July 1987. Encountered: Captured and released. Barrow in Furness, Walney Island, Cumbria, England, 24 August 1987 and 31 August 1989.

**Red Knot** (*Calidris canutus*)

802-51202: Banded: Franklin, Northwest Territories, Canada, 24 June 1980. Encountered: Trapped and released, Teesmouth, England, 22 November 1985.

782-30303: Banded: Franklin, Northwest Territories, Canada, 2 July 1984. Encountered: Trapped and released, Nigg Bay, Cromarty Firth, Scotland, 1 December 1986, and 17 January 1987.

993-81460: Banded: Ellesmere Island, Northwest Territories, Canada, 3 July 1988. Encountered: Trapped and released, Walney Island, Cumbria, England, 15 October 1988.

**Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*)

882-84907: Banded: Nauset, New Island, Massachusetts, USA, 12 July 1986. Encountered: Found dead, Finistere, France, 26 October 1986.

Table 2. Complete listing showing sites of bandings and encounters according to political divisions.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Banded</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Encountered</u>
Northern Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> )	Off Laborador	1	Iceland
" "	" "	1	Ireland
" "	" "	1	West Germany
Greater Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus gravis</i> )	New Brunswick	1	At sea, Ireland
" "	" "	1	At sea, England
Leach's Storm-Petrel ( <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i> )	Maine	1	Iceland
" "	Newfoundland	1	Spain
" "	New Brunswick	1	France
Northern Gannet ( <i>Morus bassanus</i> )	Quebec	1	At sea, Spain
" "	Newfoundland	1	Portugal
" "	"	1	Ireland
Little Blue Heron ( <i>Egretta caerulea</i> )	New Jersey	1	Azores
Black-crwn'd N.-Heron ( <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> )	New York	1	Azores
Wood Duck ( <i>Aix sponsa</i> )	North Carolina	1	Azores
Green-winged Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	Newfoundland	1	North Ireland
" "	New Brunswick	1	England
" "	Prince Edward Isl.	1	Iceland
American Black Duck ( <i>Anas rubripes</i> )	New Brunswick	1	France
" "	" "	1	West Germany
Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> )	Michigan	1	Iceland
Northern Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )	Laborador	2	England
" "	Prince Edward Isl.	1	Ireland
" "	Nova Scotia	1	France
Blue-winged Teal ( <i>Anas discors</i> )	New Brunswick	1	Denmark
" "	" "	1	England
" "	" "	1	France
" "	" "	1	Spain
" "	Nova Scotia	1	"
" "	" "	1	Portugal
" "	Prince Edward Isl.	2	Spain
" "	Ontario	1	Azores
" "	Newfoundland	1	Ireland
" "	Maine	1	Azores
" "	Quebec	1	Scotland
" "	Prince Edward Isl.	1	Morocco
American Wigeon ( <i>Anas americana</i> )	New Brunswick	2	Scotland
" "	" "	1	France
" "	" "	1	Ireland
" "	Prince Edward Isl.	1	"
Ring-necked Duck ( <i>Aythya collaris</i> )	New Brunswick	1	Wales
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	New Brunswick	1	England
American Coot ( <i>Fulica americana</i> )	Ontario	1	Azores
Semipalmated Plvr ( <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> )	Quebec	1	Azores
Upland Sandpiper ( <i>Bartramia longicauda</i> )	Michigan	1	Spain
Ruddy Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )	Northwest Terr.	1	Portugal
" "	" "	2	England
Red Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )	Northwest Terr.	1	Denmark
" "	" "	2	Scotland
" "	" "	3	England
" "	" "	3	France

Table 2. continued

<u>Species</u>	<u>Banded</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Encountered</u>
Ring-billed Gull ( <i>Larus delawarensis</i> )	Ontario	1	Azores
" "	Michigan	1	Spain
" "	Ontario	2	"
" "	New York	1	Ireland
Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	New Brunswick	1	At sea, Spain
Black-legged Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> )	Newfoundland	1	At sea, Spain
Caspian Tern ( <i>Sterna caspia</i> )	Michigan	1	England
Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> )	North Carolina	1	Netherlands
" "	" "	1	Wales
Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> )	Massachusetts	1	Azores
" "	" "	1	France
Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> )	New Brunswick	1	Scotland
" "	" "	1	France
" "	Labrador	1	"
" "	Northwest Terr.	1	"
Snow Bunting ( <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> )	New York	1	At sea, Iceland

Table 3. Total listings of all encounters by political divisions.\*

	Number of Encounters
Iceland	5
Scotland	6
England	12
Wales	2
Ireland	8
Northern Ireland	1
West Germany	2
Denmark	2
Netherlands	1
France	12
Spain	12
Portugal	3
Morocco	1
Azores	9
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\*Includes two encounters of the same American Wigeon: one at Fair Island, Scotland, and the other 70 days later in Ireland.