
News, Notes, Comments

INFORMATION REQUESTED ON SITE FIDELITY OF NORTHERN SHRIKES

I am seeking information on site fidelity of Northern Shrikes during migration and winter, both between and within years. I would appreciate receiving any reports of banded or other known identity individuals that were recorded at the same location in different years.

I am also interested in knowing residence times of individual shrikes at migration or wintering sites. Please report any such data, including location, dates, age of bird, and observed behavior, to:

Chris Rimmer
Vermont Institute of Natural Science
Woodstock, VT 05091

INFORMATION REQUESTED ON HEALTH PARAMETERS OF NATIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES

The Wildlife Clinic of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine is compiling a database on the health parameters of native wildlife species. We currently have partial information on over 175 species, but we need your help. Although natural history information is readily available, we are having difficulty in finding information in the scientific literature on the hematology and clinical chemistry of many native mammals, birds and herps.

If you have such data in your files, would you consider sharing it with the broader wildlife community? Even if you only have laboratory values for one individual of one species, this constitutes valuable information. We are also interested in finding out about any literature on the subject with which you might be familiar. We will compile all available information and make it widely available. For their participation, anyone contributing data will receive full attribution and a copy of the database.

Once our database is a bit more complete, we will make it available to veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators and wildlife biologists by posting it on electronic networks such as Econet and making available both hard copy and diskette versions at our cost.

Data can be contributed as hard copy or on 3½ inch diskettes in any standard word processing format or as ASCII files. Please send data to:

Mark Pokras, DVM
Tufts Wildlife Clinic
200 Westboro Road
N. Grafton, MA 01536-1895

Tel: 508-839-7918
FAX: 508-839-7930

AN INVITATION TO THE BIRD BANDERS OF NORTH AMERICA TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MONITORING AVIAN PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVORSHIP (MAPS) PROGRAM

The Institute for Bird Populations extends an invitation to North American bird banders to become part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program, a cooperative, continent-wide network of constant-effort mist-netting stations for the long-term monitoring of landbird productivity, survivorship and population levels.

Recent analyses of long-term population-trend data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey and other more limited and local datasets suggest that populations of many landbird species, especially forest-inhabiting Neotropical migratory species in eastern North America, are declining. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program, "Partners in Flight," was established to reverse the apparent population declines of these species.

Unfortunately, however, the existing population-trend data on Neotropical migrants provide no information on the primary demographic parameters (productivity and survivorship) of these birds. As a result, the existing data provide no means for determining at what point(s) in the life cycles of these species problems are occurring, or to what extent the observed population trends are being driven by causal factors that affect birth rates or death rates or both. In particular, the large-scale, long-term avian monitoring programs in North America that provide only population-trend data generally have been unable to determine to what extent forest fragmentation and deforestation on the temperate breeding grounds, versus that on the tropical wintering grounds, are causes for declining populations of Neotropical migratory landbirds. Indeed, without critical data on productivity and survivorship, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to identify effective management and conservation actions to reverse the current population declines. Clearly, the need for a continuing and comprehensive program of demographic monitoring for landbirds is justified.

Here the efforts of banders like us are very important. By banding and recapturing in subsequent years the individual birds that we encounter, we can accumulate data on the population sizes and survivorship of the birds. By accurately ageing each individual, we can accumulate data on the numbers and proportions of young birds captured and thus on the productivity of the birds. Furthermore, by networking with other banders, we can provide meaningful information on changes in productivity and survivorship over large geographical areas.

Now in its fifth year, the MAPS program coordinated by The Institute for Bird Populations has expanded considerably from 17 stations in 1989 to 167 stations in 1992. Recently endorsed by the Monitoring Working Group of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program as a necessary and valuable tool for detecting changes in the productivity and survivorship of landbirds, the MAPS program should dovetail nicely with other large-scale, long-term avian monitoring programs already being conducted on the continent.

Furthermore, the operation of a four-year pilot MAPS program in the Northeast and Northwest Regions of the continent was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last winter.

The goal of the MAPS program for the summer of 1993 is the operation of at least 60 MAPS stations each in the Northeast, North-central, and Northwest Regions; 40 each in the Southwest, South-central, and Southeast Regions; and 20 in the Alaska Region. To meet this goal, we are seeking an additional 33 North-central, 19 Northeastern, 34 Southwestern, 22 South-central, 25 Southeastern, and 13 Alaskan stations. Analysis of the first three years (1989-1991) of MAPS data suggests that data from 60 stations in a region will allow extremely precise determinations of productivity and survivorship for the target species. These species are Black-capped Chickadee, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal and Song Sparrow in the Northeast; Downy Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, Song Sparrow, and American Goldfinch in the North-central Region; and Dusky Flycatcher, "Western" Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco in the Northwest. Target species have not yet been selected for the other regions.

The MAPS program provides banders with the opportunity to make an important contribution to avian biomonitoring. Moreover, the methodology is simple and straightforward.

(1) Establish a study area and banding station at a location that can be utilized for at least five years and that will permit the capture of substantial numbers of many of the common species of landbirds. Stations established in the Northeast, North-central, or Northwest Region must be able to capture substantial numbers of at least one of the target species listed above.

(2) Set up one 12-m mist net at each of about ten permanent net-sites in the study area.

(3) Operate these nets in a standardized manner for about six morning hours per day and for one day in each of about eight to twelve consecutive ten-day periods from May to August. Each station should begin netting after most migrant individuals have passed through the study site.

(4) Band all unbanded birds and identify, age, and sex all birds captured, including recaptures.

We urge banders from all parts of North America to become part of this exciting project. For more information, please write *The Institute for Bird Populations*, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, or call (415) 663-1436.

David F. DeSante and Kenneth M. Burton
The Institute for Bird Populations
P.O. Box 1346
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

President's Message - Barbara M. Ross

The annual meeting committee has the weekend of 2-4 April 1993 planned and ready for our commitment to participate. We urge all members to attend and make the most of the workshops, papers, and speeches. The Nominations Chairman, Gale Smith, and his committee are hard at work drawing up a slate of officers. There will be a new class of four councilors nominated. If you wish to serve, or know someone who should be contacted, please advise Gale, RD #2, Box 97-D, Kempton PA 19529. EBBA is the sum of all of us and needs everyone's support. The 1993 dues notices have been mailed. Please be prompt in paying your dues. Don't forget "Operation Wing Chord." Your data should be sent to Susannah Graedel, 3 Talmage Road, Medham, NJ 07946.

ATTEND THE 70TH ANNUAL MEETING 2-4 APRIL 1993, PAINTED POST, NEW YORK

Join the Eastern Bird Banding Association members for their 70th annual meeting on 2-4 April 1993 at a picturesque rural setting at **Watson Homestead Conference Center** near **Corning, NY**. Members of the **Chemung Valley Audubon Society** will assist with registration; **Robert McKinney**, field trips.

Paper presenters are: **Robert Beason, Kevin Berner, Kenneth Burton, Andy Damalas, Mary Doscher, Bill Evans, Ed & Judy Henckel, Kevin McGowan, Ward Stone, and Robert Yunick.**

Report from the Banding Lab.

Workshop presenters are: **Kevin Berner, Kenneth Burton, Mary Doscher, Tom McDonald, Lloyd Swart and Robert Yunick.**

Friday evening speaker: **Chuck Yohn** Saturday banquet speaker: **Keith Bildstein**

To contribute to the **bucket raffle**, let **Janet Shaffer** know at RD #6, Box 338, Bedford, PA 15522. To reserve **exhibit space**, contact **Cathie & Roy Slack** at RD #1, Box 532, Besaw Road Phoenix, NY 13135 or call (315) 598-4326.

Members should have received **registration forms** during January. If anyone has questions, contact **Mary & John Forness** at 3086 Haskell Road, Cuba, NY 14727 or call (716) 968-1978.