
News, Notes, Comments

North American Bluebird Society Research Grants 1999

The North American Bluebird Society is accepting applications for research grants involving North American cavity-nesting birds with an emphasis on the genus *Sialia*. Professional biologists/researchers and graduate students are encouraged to apply for these grants which may be up to \$1,000 each.

Application guidelines may be obtained from the NABS home page at:
<http://www.cobleskill.edu/nabs/>

or from Kevin L. Berner, NABS Research Chairman
College of Agriculture and Technology, SUNY
Cobleskill, NY 12043.
E-mail inquiries should be sent to:
bernerkl@cobleskill.edu.

Completed applications must be received by December 1, 1998. Funding decisions will be announced by January 15, 1999.

Recent Literature

OMISSION: W. R. P. Bourne's tribute to George M. Dunnet, abstracted in *NABB* 23:14, 1998, was published in *Seabird* 18:3-4, 1996.

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Janette Dean: Ottawa's banding leader. M. K. McNicholl. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(2):6-7 & 42(3):1,3,6. 4735 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1L3 (Brief biography of "backbone" of Ottawa Banding Group, with emphasis on her contributions to banding in Ottawa, Ontario, and Andros Island, Bahamas.) MKM

[Untitled]. Anonymous. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(4):9. c/o C. Rogers, Suite 804, 1320 Mississauga Valley Blvd., Mississauga, Ont. L5A 2L7 (Obituary of Howard Krug of Chesley, Ontario, who banded over 100,000 birds during his 93-year life.) MKM

Letters. C. S Houston. 1998. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 43(1):4. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (More details on the life and banding of Howard Krug, noting that he long held the

lowest banding permit number in North America and that he banded over 90,000 gulls and over 110,000 birds 1933-1989.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

John Miles' banding tip #1. J. Miles. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(1):4. Box 449, Jarvis, Ont. N0A 1J0 (Recommends braided nylon masons line over other types of rope as a long lasting, inexpensive cord for tying net poles to trees or stakes and to replace broken or rotten cotton net loops.) MKM

Problems with White-throats. P. N. Prior. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(1):5-6. 174 Broadway Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4P 1V9 (About three of 1500+ White-throated Sparrows netted annually at Long Point, Ontario, have been found with breaks or dislocations of intertarsal joints, apparently caused by "kicking" in the net.) MKM

Duplicate band numbers. J. B. Miles. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(2):9. Box 449, Jarvis, Ont. N0A 1J0 (Two bands on one string were

from a completely different sequence. Both duplicated two bands in the string of their sequence.) MKM

Banding tip #2. J. Miles. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(3):7. Box 449, Jarvis, Ont. N0A 1J0 (Recommends inexpensive ardox nails or spikes as alternatives to wooden stakes to stabilize net poles in frozen and other hard ground.) MKM

Netminding—a tip. D. Shepherd. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(4):4. 285 Paisley Rd., Guelph, Ont. N1H 2P8 (Describes a “furling pole” for moving shelves up and down net poles with reduced fraying.) MKM

Caution when aging by tail shape. E. A. Machell. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(4):5, 8. Box 2, Delhi, Ont. N4B 2W8 (The loss and subsequent partial growth of all six left rectrices on a male Common Yellowthroat produced a tail with a truncated left side, but pointed right side.) MKM

Birding tip #3. J. Miles. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(4):11. Box 449, Jarvis, Ont. N0A 1J0 (Tips on dyeing faded nets.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Ageing American Goldfinches. J. B. Miles. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(2):10. Box 449, Jarvis, Ont. N0A 1J0 (A male banded SY on the basis of green shoulder patches in 1996 was recaptured in 1997 still with green shoulder patches.) MKM

Letters. R. G. McKinney. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(3):7. 198 Parkview Dr., Rochester, N.Y. 14625-1044. (Another instance of a male American Goldfinch retaining a green shoulder patch when recaptured the year following banding.) MKM

Leucistic Swainson's Thrush in Muskogee County, Oklahoma. J. A. McMahon. 1994. *Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 27:31. 311 Bayou Rd., Ft. Gibson, OK 74434 (Brief observation of pale beige-colored thrush with immaculate breast, identified by call note as Swainson's.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Prince Edward Bird Observatory 1996 spring migration summary. E. A. Machell. 1996. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 41(4):3-5. Box 2, Delhi, Ont. N4B 2W8 (In spite of considerable unfavorable weather, 2518 birds of 91 species and one hybrid were banded at a revived site along the northern shore of Lake Ontario in the spring of 1996, up from 1716 birds of 89 species and one hybrid banded in the spring of 1995. An influx of Blue Jays contributed 122 birds in two days to the 1996 total.) MKM

Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station: Merlin recovery. B. Hubert. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(1):1. 10 Paulson Court, St. Thomas, Ont. N5R 1M9 (AHY female banded on north shore of Lake Erie in September 1995, recovered on “lower” west shore of Hudson Bay in May 1996.) MKM

More banding highlights. R. P. Yunick. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(2):7. 1527 Myron St., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309 (The author's 1996 banding total of 1968 birds at various sites in New Jersey and New York was his third lowest in 35 years, with House and Purple finches down considerably. A Louisiana Waterthrush brought his all-time banded species list to 197, with 156,728 birds banded by year's end.) MKM

Yet more banding highlights. J. Miles. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(2):8. Box 449, Jarvis, Ont. N0A 1J0 (1653 birds of 76 species were banded during the second year of a migration monitoring station in Selkirk Provincial Park, Ontario. In addition, 36 birds banded in 1996 were recaptured and four birds of four species captured had been banded elsewhere, including a Golden-crowned Kinglet banded about 45 km away at Long Point the same day.) MKM

Banding recoveries from Thunder Cape Bird Observatory. D. Shepherd and D. Okines. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(3):1-2, 4-6; **Correction.** D. Shepherd. 1998. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 43(1):5. 285 Paisley Rd., Guelph, Ont. N1H 2P8 (Tabulation and discussion of 101 recoveries of 20 species banded since 1991 at observatory on north shore of Lake Superior and

of 11 birds of five species banded elsewhere and recovered there ("foreign recoveries"). Sharp-shinned Hawks (41 recoveries and two foreign recoveries) and Northern Saw-whet Owls (35 recoveries and four foreign recoveries) were the most-recovered birds. Recoveries were from other sites in Ontario and 11 U.S. states; foreign recoveries were from seven U.S. states.) MKM

Banding highlights. M. Wernaart. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(3):8. R.R. 2, Campbellville, Ont. L0P 1B0 (Eight longevity records from banding returns of six species at Mountsberg, near Guelph, Ontario.) MKM

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory: 1997 spring migration highlights. E. A. Machell. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(4):5, 7-8. Box 2, Delhi, Ont. N4B 2W8 (From 13 April to 31 May 1997, 2937 birds of 91 species were banded at a site on the north shore of Lake Ontario, bringing the three-year recent total to 7171 birds of 105 species plus one hybrid. A table compares numbers of 1997's top ten species with their 1995 and 1996 totals.) MKM

Blue Jay bonanza. T. Groh. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(4):11. c/o C. Rogers, Suite 804, 1320 Mississauga Valley Blvd., Mississauga, Ont. L5A 2L7 (During a flight of 55,000 Blue Jays on the north shore of Lake Erie, 653 were netted and banded 6-9 October [1997?], of which "less than 1 percent" were adults.) MKM

A decade of Snowy Owls at Logan Airport. N. Smith. 1994. *Bird Observer (Massachusetts)* 22:28-33. BOEM, 16 Oxford St., Lexington, MA 02173 (Over 12 years, 186 Snowy Owls were banded at Logan Airport, East Boston, Massachusetts. Most were immature, the predominant age in winters when Snowy Owls were plentiful. Some were also color-marked to help track local movements, sort out the numbers present and determine duration of stay of each owl in the area. Two owls banded at Plum Island were recaptured at Logan Airport, while Logan Airport-banded owls have been observed and/or recovered in Ontario, Quebec, and eight U.S. states additional to Massachusetts. Five have returned the winter following banding; one six years later.) MKM

Wood Thrush observed in Edmonton. E. Kuyt. 1997. *Alta. Nat.* 27:68. 3810-103B St. NW, Edmonton, Alta. T6J 2X9 (A Wood Thrush caught in a mist net, measured and banded provided the second confirmed record for Alberta.) MKM

Notable recaptures of banded Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. E. Womack. 1994. *Bull. Oklahoma Ornithol. Soc.* 27:30-31. 1022 S. Sycamore Dr., Grove, OK 74344-3502 (During the summer of 1991, 131 hummingbirds were banded near Grove, Oklahoma. Two other hummingbirds captured had been banded previously by Marguerite Baumgartner, one at least six years old, the other tying the Ruby-throated Hummingbird longevity record of nine years. An adult female banded in 1991 was recaptured 20 miles away in 1994.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

By portable toilet across central Asia or how I banded 1000 birds in a day. D. Brewer. 1997. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 42(4):1-3. **The Chokpak Ornithological Station.** D. Brewer. 1998. *Ont. Bird Band. Assoc. Newsletter* 43(1):1-3. R.R. 1, Puslinch, Ont. N0B 2J0 (Account of one week's banding activities at Chokpak banding station in hills below the Tien Shan mountains of Kazakhstan, a site at which 14,000 birds have been banded in a single day! Second article is a reprint of a brochure giving more details about the station and the research conducted there.) MKM

Note: Thanks to Norman Smith and Ellie Womack for responding to my requests for copies of publications abstracted in this issue.

Authors are encouraged to have their publishers send to us review copies of books of interest to banders. Non-Canadian publishers can save the literature editor considerable time by indicating on the customs form that the book is a free review copy. Otherwise, the editor has to pay a tax and then apply for a refund. M.K.M.

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

