Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

In memoriam: Jerome H. Stoudt, 1910-1996. C. S. Houston and A. Dzubin. 1998. *Blue Jay* 56:248-250. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (Biography of long-term U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, whose waterfowl studies in the U.S. "mid-west" and prairie states and provinces included banding of ducklings and molting adults, many caught by Labrador retrievers.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Traps for capturing territorial owls. S. M. Redpath and I. Wyllie. 1994. *J. Raptor Res.* 28:115-117. Inst. Terrestrial Ecol., Monks Wood Exper. Stn., Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE17 2LS, U.K. (Modified Chardoneret traps were more effective in capturing territorial Tawny Owls in England when baited with a live owl [territorial rival] than when baited with prey. No birds were caught with a mist net-taped owl lure combination. Radio-tracking of birds caught showed all to be on territory.) MKM

Bird ringing in southern Africa [:] projects for the future. ADU guide 2. Avian Demography Unit, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa. 37 pp. L. G. Underhill, T. B. Oatley and A. Berruti. 1995. Avian Demography Unit, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa (Discussion of existing cooperative and single-observer projects that can be helped by banding in southern Africa, including studies of both residents and migrants, studies of molt and plumage, studies of life history traits, and various others. Although based on southern African birds, many of the types of studies and principles involved would apply anywhere.

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Murphy's Petrels on Ducie Atoll: another piece of the puzzle. K. J. Zimmer. 1992. *Am. Birds* 46:1100-1105. 1665 Garcia, Atascadero, CA 93422 (Includes an identification summary in comparison with similar *Pterodroma* species.) MKM

Doubled-crested Cormorant morphometry and field sexing in the St. Lawrence River estuary. J. Bedard, A. Nadeau and M. LePage. 1995. pp. 86-90 *in* D. N. Nettleship and D. C. Duffy (Eds.). The Double-crested Cormorant: biology, conservation and management. *Colonial Waterbirds* 18, Spec. Iss. No. 1. Dept. de biol., Univ. Laval, Ste-Foy, Que. G1K 7P4 (Data are given on body mass, total body length, wing length and culmen from 1,137 cormorants killed in Quebec. Males were larger than females, but variation within sexes precluded sex determination based on any one character. However, a combination of the width ("guage") of one of the central rectrices and wing length resulted in accurate determination of sex in over 90% of the specimens tested.) MKM

Deformed chickadee. B. Kinch. 1998. *Ont. Birds* 16:45. Kenabeek, Ont. (Black-capped Chickadee with long, decurved upper mandible, unusually dark underparts and apparently larger than normal size.) MKM

Commentary: estimating sexes of honeyeaters from head-bill measurements. D. I. Rogers and K. G. Rogers. 1995. *Corella* 19:12-17. 340 Ninks Rd., St. Andrew, Victoria 3761, Australia (Detailed critique of a sex-determination procedure proposed in 1993 by G. H. Pyke and D. P. Armstrong, based on New Holland and White-cheeked honeyeaters.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

1997–year of the crane. B. Johns. 1998. *Alta. Nat.* 28:3-4. Can. Wildl. Serv., Environ. Canada, 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Sask. (Color banding helped document movements and survival of Whooping Cranes between their nests in and near Wood Buffalo National Park, Northwest Territories-Alberta and Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, during a record year of 51 nestings, followed by a record 182 cranes wintering at Aransas.) MKM

Resurgence of breeding Merlins, *Falco columbarius richardsonii*, in Saskatchewan grasslands. C. S. Houston and K. A. Hodson. 1997. *Can. Field-Nat.* 111:243-248. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (Banding of nestlings

helped document the return and increase of Merlins in an area of western rural Saskatchewan from which they had disappeared. Of 561 banded, only seven [0.8%] have been recovered, indicating greater dispersal of young than in a nearby urban population. Distant recoveries were from southern Saskatchewan, Nebraska, and Texas [206-2005 km]. Bandings by Houston of young in nests in other parts of Saskatchewan are also mentioned in a brief addendum.) MKM

Spring banding at the Haldimand Bird Observatory. Anonymous. 1998. *Harrier* 2(1):1-5. Box 25, Nanticoke, Ont. N0A 1L0 (During the spring of 1998, 1735 birds of 85 species were banded at Ruthven Park and Selkirk Provincial Park in southern Ontario and 113 birds of 20 species banded in previous years were retrapped. The origin of a previously banded Tree Swallow had not yet been determined.) MKM

Fall banding at the Haldimand Bird Observatory. Anonymous. 1998. *Harrier* 2(2):1-6. Box 25, Nanticoke, Ont. N0A 1L0 (A 500% increase in Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers contributed substantially to the 3940 birds of 98 species and one hybrid banded at Ruthven Park and Selkirk Provincial Park, Ontario, during the fall of 1998. Black-capped Chickadees caught up to 40 times were among 316 birds that were retrapped within 90 days at Ruthven, where 40 birds banded in previous years also returned. The newer Selkirk station had 20 such returns.) MKM

Survival of Ring-necked Pheasant chicks during brood rearing. T. Z. Riley, W. R. Clark, D. E. Ewing and P. A. Vohs. 1998. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 62:36-44. Iowa Dept. Nat. Resources, Chariton Res. Stn., Chariton, IA 50049 (Movements and survival to 28 days in two habitats were studied by implanting transmitters into day-old chicks. Most broods remained within 100 m of the nest site for the first two days after hatching, but then moved up to 1000 m. In five broods (of 117), one radioed chick moved to a different brood. Over 85% of chick deaths were by mammalian predators, with other chicks succumbing to exposure. Chick survival was not influenced by age of hen. Chances of chick mortality increased as chicks hatched after the median hatching date, but decreased as chicks grew larger.) MKM

The Double-crested Cormorant in the south-central United States: habitat and population changes of a feathered pariah. J. A. Jackson and B. J. S. Jackson. 1995. pp. 118-130 *in* D. N. Nettleship and D. C. Duffy (Eds.). The Double-crested Cormorant: biology, conservation and management. *Colonial Waterbirds* 18, Spec. Iss. No. 1. Dept. Biol. Sci., Mississippi State Univ., Mississippi State, MS 39762 (Includes a summary of origins of banded cormorants wintering in the U.S. "mid-south," indicating that most come from the prairie states and provinces or the Great Lakes, but that some come from other states west of the Rocky Mountains. Most of the cormorants recovered in Arkansas were in their first fall, but birds up to 16+ years were encountered there.) MKM

Spring '98 at Beaverhills Lake, Alberta. E. T. Jones. 1998. *Alta. Nat.* 28:45. #119, 215 Blackburn Dr. East SW, Edmonton, Alta. T6W 1B9 (Mist netting helped document the third Wood Thrush and second spring Black-throated Blue Warbler records for Alberta. Recaptures produced longevity records of eight years for Least Flycatcher and at least ten years for Yellow Warbler. Notable recoveries included Swainson's Hawk in Panama, Ferruginous Hawk in South Dakota, Warbling Vireo in Oaxaca, Mexico, and Yellow-rumped Warbler in Louisiana.) MKM

Daily activity budgets and movements of winter roosting Double-crested Cormorants determined by telemetry in the Delta Region of Mississippi. D. T. King, J. F. Glahn and K. J. Andrews. 1995. pp. 152-157 *in* D. N. Nettleship and D. C. Duffy (Eds.). The Double-crested Cormorant: biology, conservation and management. *Colonial Waterbirds* 18, Spec. Iss. No. 1. U.S. Dept. Agric., Denver Wildl. Res. Cent., Mississippi Res. Stn., Mississippi State, MS 39762-6099 (Fifty-nine cormorants captured by nets from boats after being flushed from night roosts were fitted with transmitters. Movement and time budget data were collected on 18 of these, showing longer movements from night roost sites to foraging sites than between foraging sites and day-time roosting sites. During the day, these cormorants spent more than 50% of their time roosting, and about 18% of

their time foraging, although ratios on time spent on given activities varied slightly between years.) MKM

Origin, population attributes, and mangement conflict resolution for Double-crested Cormorants wintering in Texas. B. C. Thompson, J. J. Campo and R. C. Telfair III. 1995. pp. 181-188 *in* D. N. Nettleship and D. C. Duffy (Eds.). The Double-crested Cormorant: biology, conservation and management. *Colonial Waterbirds* 18, Spec. Iss. No. 1. U. S. Natl. Biol. Serv., New Mex. Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, Box 30003, Dept. 4901, Las Cruces, NM 88003 (The recovery rate of 117,802 Double-crested Cormorants banded in North America from 1955 to 1985 is about 1%, with 513 recovered in Texas. Most Texas recoveries are of juveniles. Texas recoveries are mapped. Birds recovered in Texas were from four Canadian provinces and 11 U.S. states, mostly from the prairie region. Juveniles constituted 76% of cormorants recovered in Texas prior to 1970, but only 69% of those recovered later. Prior to 1970, 45.0% of recoveries were from birds shot and 11.8% from birds caught in fishing gear, whereas after 1970 birds shot declined to 17.3% and those entangled rose to 27.5%. Other recovery methods are also tabulated.) MKM

Successful nesting by a pair of Bald Eagles at ages three and four. D. W. Mulhern and M. A. Watkins. 1994. *J. Raptor Res.* 28:113-114. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Suite E, 315 Houston St., Manhattan, KS 66502-6172 (Color bands showed that a pair of nesting eagles in Kansas consisted of a four-year old male from nearby and a three-year old female fledged in Oklahoma.) MKM

Reproduction of Ring-necked Pheasants in Iowa. T. Z. Riley, J. B. Wooley, Jr. and W. B. Rybarcyk. 1994. *Prairie Nat.* 26:263-272. Iowa Dept. Nat. Resources, Chariton Res. Stn., R.R. 1, Box 209, Chariton, IA 50049 (Of 44 hens radio-tagged in Iowa, 44% were successful on their first nesting attempts, and 71% of those that lost first clutches renested, with more adults renesting than juveniles. Juvenile females were more successful than adults at nesting and at hatching young. Radio-tracking also provided data on habitat use.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

The Hooded Pitohui's poisonous secret. C. Hallowell. 1992. *Amer. Birds* 46:1084-1088. No address given. (Discovery by Jack Dumbacher of toxin in feathers of Hooded Pitohui in at least part of New Guinea during mist-netting/banding operations and subsequent finding that other pitohui species in the same area lacked the toxin, with some evidence that occurrence of toxin in Hooded Pitohui feathers may vary geographically.) MKM

World record breaking bird. C. Minton and H. Phillips. 1997. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 77:1. RAOU Conservation & Liason, Autralian Bird Res. Centre, 415 Riversdale Rd., Hawthorn E., VIC 3123, Australia. (Common Tern chick banded on 30 June 1996 in Finland, recovered 24 January 1997 26,000 km away in Victoria, Australia, exceeding 22,500 km journey of Arctic Tern banded in 1955 in Russia, recovered in Australia in 1956.) MKM

Cats, rats, people and seabirds in the Azores. B. Furness. 1997. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 77:7-10. Graham Kerr Bldg., Univ. Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, U.K. (Banding showed that spring-breeding Maderian Storm-Petrels do not interchange with individuals breeding in the same burrows in the fall. Measurements, plumages, vocalizations and DNA all also differed between the two populations.) MKM

Seabird studies on Foula, 1997. R. W. Furness. 1997. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 78:11-12. Dept. Zool., Univ. Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, U.K. (1997 banding totals for eight seabird species are listed by adults, chicks and retraps/recoveries on a Scottish island, where color marking has helped determine survival of Great Skuas.) MKM

Behavior of colonial Common Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) during the post-fledging dependence period in southwestern Spain. J. Bustamente. 1994. *J. Raptor Res.* 28:79-83. Estacion Biol. de Donana, CSIC, Pabellon del Peru, Avda. Maria Luisa s/n, 41013 Sevilla, Spain (Alphanumeric codes on color bands and telemetry helped document movements and behavioral development of young kestrels, and interactions among siblings and unrelated young.) MKM

Ringing recoveries and colony attendance of Isle of May Guillemots. M. P. Harris, S. R. Baillie and C. Dudley. 1997. *Seabird* 19:31-39. Inst. Terrestrial Ecol., Hill of Brathens, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB31 4BY, U.K. (Of 275 Common Murres recovered from birds banded on Isle of May, Scotland, between January 1970 and August 1995, 55% were "found dead," 22% found oiled, 20% caught in fishing nests and 3% shot. All shot birds and 71% of birds caught in nets were first-year birds. Most recoveries, analyzed by season and age of bird, were from the North Sea or British Isles, but small numbers were recovered in the Baltic Sea, the Bay of Biscay and the Faroe Islands.) MKM

Differences in prey species delivered to nestlings by male and female Razorbills *Alca torda*. R. H. Wagner. 1997. *Seabird* 19:58-59. Dept. Biol., York Univ., North York, Ont. M3J 1P3 (Observations in Wales of nesting pairs in which one or both birds were color-banded showed that sprats comprised 10% of food loads brought to chicks by females, but only 1.6% of loads brought by males.) MKM

Note: Thanks to William R. Clark for the reprint of the 1998 pheasant study by T. Z. Riley *et al.* and to John Miles for copies of two issues of *Harrier* abstracted in this compilation.

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

Books

THE BIRDS OF SONORA

Stephen M. Russell and Gale Monson, illustrated by Ray Harm. 1998. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. Hard cover, 360 pp. $75.00 U.S.

For many birdwatchers, including this reviewer, the state of Sonora was their first introduction to the ornithology of Mexico, a country of enormous diversity and interest in the Americas, behind only Brazil and Peru in its number of endemic species. Sonora is a roughly triangular state, bounded to the north by Arizona, to the east by the high mountains of Chihuahua and to the west by the Gulf of California. Although at 180,000 square km., it is only one-sixth the size of Ontario, no fewer than 525 species (as compared to about 470 in Ontario) have been recorded. This diversity is due in no small degree to the extraordinarily varied topography and climate of Sonora, encompassing deserts of various types, upland savannahs, tropical deciduous forest, thornscrub and high altitude pine and pine-oak woodlands. The traveller from the United States does not have to journey very far south of the border before encountering families, such as motmots or woodcreepers, not found in the U.S., as well as numerous unfamiliar species.

Such an area is well worthy of its own book. The long-awaited **Birds of Sonora** by Russell and Monson meets just such a need. The authors are uniquely qualified to undertake this task: Russell was, before retirement, a Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology of the University of Arizona in Tucson, while Monson, one of the authors of the classic **Birds of Arizona** (1964), is a native Arizonan, who worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The present work is based largely on many thousands of hours spent in the field, over many years, in all areas of the state of Sonora, as well as a thorough review of published and unpublished data from many sources.

The book begins with a useful introduction to the state, starting with some basic geographic notes, a description of the various vegetation types (with color map) and notes on climate and human effects on the Sonoran environment. After a brief glossary and some items of explanation, the book launches into its major component, the species accounts.

Each of the more than 500 species has an individual account, starting with a summary of its status in Sonora (which varies, according to species, from dates and places of the occurrence of rare species to detailed descriptions of geographic and altitudinal distribution of more widespread ones), notes on preferred habitat, and quite frequently other details, such as a