

Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Eastern Bluebird banding: 1900-1920. T. D. Pitts. 1994. *Sialia* 16: 123-126, 129. Biol. Dept., Univ. of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238 (Summary of early history of banding in North America, with early examples of bandings and recoveries of Eastern Bluebird.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

A choice of methods for estimating sexes of birds using morphometric measurements: a reply to Rogers and Rogers (1995).

G. H. Pyke. 1995. *Corella* 19:18-23. Australian Mus., 6 College St., Sydney, N.S.W. 2000, Australia (Thorough review of three methods of attempting to use statistical data based on the distance between the back of the skull and tip of the bill to differentiate between sexes in two species of honeyeaters.) MKM

Sheba: computer programs for sexing birds on measurements using univariate data. K. G. Rogers. 1995. *Corella* 19:25-34. 340 Ninks Rd., St. Andrews, Victoria 3761, Australia (Description and discussion of "user-friendly" IBM-compatible computer programs designed to use measurements to determine sex of sexually size-dimorphic birds, including appendices on defining a histogram and providing additional details on the programs.) MKM

Use of mist nets and a live Great Horned Owl to capture breeding American Kestrels. K. Steenhof, G. P. Carpenter and J. C. Bednarz. 1994. *J. Raptor Res.* 28:194-196. Raptor Res. & Tech. Assistance Center, U.S. Natl. Biol. Surv., 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705 (Configuration and placement of mist nets and live owl used to capture 20 kestrels in 23 attempts at 19 nest boxes in Idaho.) MKM

Hook and loop tabs for attaching a dho-gaza. C. E. Knittle and M. A. Pavelka. 1994. *J. Raptor Res.* 28:197-198. USDA/Denver Wildl. Res. Center, Bldg. 16, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225

(Fabric hook and loop fasteners provided a better, more flexible, method of attaching net to poles than methods described previously.) MKM

The population size of Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* on 'The Neck' of Skomer Island: a comparison of methods. D. W. Gibbons and D. Vaughan. 1998. *Seabird* 20:3-11. Royal Soc. for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K. (An estimate of the population size of a large colony in Wales in 1995 based on responses to playbacks of male calls at nesting burrows was comparable to a more labor-intensive chick marking/recapture method used in 1994. Advantages and disadvantages of the two methods are compared.) MKM

A remote-controlled net trap for ground-nesting cormorants. D. Gremillet and R. P. Wilson. 1998. *Seabird* 20:44-47. Institut für Meereskunde Kiel, Meereszoologie, Dusternbrooker Weg 20, D-24105 Kiel, Germany (Description of trap used to catch 38 nesting adult Great Cormorants on the French Channel Islands without any apparent injury to the birds. Predation of a few eggs and chicks by gulls was the only adverse effect, an effect that could be minimized by covering the nest during the trapping operation.) MKM

Flipper bands on penguins: why newer is not always better. N. T. W. Klages and K. D. Spencer. 1996. *Safring News* 25:9-12. Port Elizabeth Mus., Box 13147, Humewood 6013, South Africa (Comparison of various aspects of quality of flipper bands manufactured in different years, and their likelihood of harming the banded bird and/or being lost.) MKM

Fall-net trap and patagial tag marking for live Namaqua Sandgrouse. G. Malan and T. M. Crowe. 1996. *Safring News* 25:15-17. FitzPatrick Inst., Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa (Using a trap at a watering site required less time to remove the birds than required for a method of placing mist nets in their flight path. A new method of applying patagial tags also reduced

handling time from that used previously. Durability of tags and effects of handling and marking on sandgrouse were assessed.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Development of the Whitefaced Duckling. D. B. Hanmer. 1996. *Safring News* 25:3-8. Box 3076, Paulington, Mutare, Zimbabwe (Data on growth in wing length and weight of semi-captive ducklings in Malawi, in comparison with similar data on adult males and females caught or shot in the same area. Data on growth and molt in primary and body feathers are also included.) MKM

More eccentric primary moult in juvenile Blackcheeked Waxbills *Estrilda erythronotos*. M. Herremans. 1996. *Safring News* 25:19. Avian Demography Unit, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa (Ten of 15 juveniles examined in Botswana were undergoing an unusual primary molt pattern observed in the same area previously. All examples of this pattern observed to date occurred in years of lower-than-average rainfall, suggesting a possible relationship to habitat conditions.) MKM

Identification aid for European Marsh Warbler and European Reed Warbler. J. M. H. Raijmakers. 1996. *Safring News* 25:21-27. Box 5067, Vanderbijlpark 1900, South Africa (Detailed review of various measurements, color patterns and formulae helpful in separating these two very similar species, including sex and age differences.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1997. R. Z. Dobos. 1998. *Ont. Birds* 16:51-80. 1156 5th Concession Rd. W., R.R. 2, Waterdown, Ont. L0R 2H2 (Banding operations helped document extralimital records of Field Sparrow, Lark Bunting and Grasshopper Sparrow at Thunder Cape, along the north shore of Lake Superior. Documentation during banding was considered inadequate for positive identification of two individuals of the White-winged race of Dark-eyed Junco and seven records of Willow Flycatcher.) MKM

The 1995-1997 Great Gary Owl invasions in the Peterborough area. D. Sadler. 1998. *Ont. Birds* 16:81-87. R.R. 4, Peterborough, Ont. K9J 6X5 (Banding helped estimate numbers of birds in the Peterborough area during a record influx in the winter of 1995-1996 [330] and an "echo" flight the following winter [265] and to determine age of birds in both flights.) MKM

Banding highlights 1995. D. Stiles. 1996. *Pica* 16(2):19-21. 20 Lake Wapta Rise SE, Calgary, Alta. T2J 2M9 (During 1975, 1475 bluebirds [presumably all Mountain] and 1475 Tree Swallows were banded along Calgary, Alberta area bluebird house trails by 12 banders. A table indicates distances moved, age at banding and age at recovery for 51 Mountain Bluebird and 43 Tree Swallow recoveries, with further details on several recoveries outlined in the text. Oldest birds recovered in 1995 were a six-year-old Mountain Bluebird and a seven-year-old Tree Swallow.)MKM

Aversive conditioning to reduce raven predation on California Least Tern eggs. M. L. Avery, M. A. Pavelka, D. L. Bergman, D. G. Decker, C. E. Knittle and G. L. Linz. 1995. *Colonial Waterbirds* 18:131-138. U.S. Dept. Agriculture, Denver Wildl. Res. Center, Florida Field Stn., 2820 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32641 (Banded and patagial-marked ravens near tern colonies were shown to hold territories from which they excluded other egg predators. Ravens learned to avoid methiocarb-treated eggs near their nest sites, but did not avoid eggs at other sites. Thus, tern egg predation could be reduced by training ravens nesting nearby to avoid eggs and relying on the ravens to exclude most other egg predators from the area.) MKM

Interior Least Tern site fidelity and dispersal. R. B. Renken. 1995. *Colonial Waterbirds* 18:193-198. Missouri Dept. Conservation, 1110 S. College Ave., Columbus, MO 65201 (Resightings of 191 adult and 1,674 young Least Terns banded at colonies along the Mississippi River showed that both young and adults showed low site fidelity to specific colony sites, but most showed fidelity to a general area, with a median distance moved by adults of 9.1 km. Two birds moved about 300 km along the Mississippi River, while two others were resighted about 1000 km from the banding site, in South Dakota. Resightings of three terns banded

10-17 years earlier were 0, 13 and 75 km from their natal colonies.) MKM

Hematology and occurrence of hemoparasites in migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) during fall migration. L. V. Powers, M. Pokras, K. Rio, C. Viverette and L. Goodrich. 1994. *J. Raptor Res.* 28:178-185. Tufts Wildl. Clinic, Tufts Univ. School of Vet. Medicine, 200 Westboro Rd., North Grafton, MA 01536 (As determined from blood samples collected from 85 birds captured for banding in Pennsylvania.) MKM

Wood Duck population expansion in northern Montana. D. W. Prellwitz, J. R. Little, L. R. Rau and C. J. Hoff. 1995. *Prairie Nat.* 27:27-32. Bowdoin Natl. Wildl. Refuge, HC 65, Box 5700, Malta, MT 59538 (Of 32 banded flightless young released along the Montana portion of the Milk River in 1980, one was shot in Colorado the same year. Of 68 Wood Ducks trapped and banded in swin-in traps at Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge in 1990 and 1991, two have been recovered, both near the refuge.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Seabird ringing on the Forth Islands 1997. J. C. Davies. "1997" [sic: 1998]. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 79:14-15. address not given. (1997 banding was concentrated on five main species in a long-term project in Scotland in which 20,000+ birds of 19 species have been banded over 20 years.) MKM

Recoveries of Black Shags (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) banded in Wairarapa, New Zealand. D. Sim and R. G. Powlesland. 1995. *Notornis* 42:23-26. 84 Kuratawhiti St., Greytown, New Zealand (Of 490 nestlings banded at three sites in New Zealand 1976-1989, 41 have been recovered to date, all dead. Of 21 with known causes of death, 13 drowned in fish nets, six were shot, one drowned in a crayfish pot and one was road-killed. Age at recovery ranged from 10 weeks to 4.5 years, with 11 of the 14 that drowned being less than six months old. One that jumped into a lagoon after banding was recovered 16 km away eight months later. Most recoveries were local, but one was about 2000 km away on Lord Howe Island.) MKM*

Recovery round-up. Anonymous. 1995. *Corella* 19:34-36. c/o Honorary Editor, Australian Bird Study Assoc., Box A313, Sydney South, NSW 2000, Australia (Details of 39 recoveries of 25 species banded in Australia, Indian Ocean islands and New Zealand. Species on the seventh edition of the AOU checklist are Yellow-nosed, Shy, Black-browed, and Wandering albatrosses, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Brown Booby, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Great Skua and Little Tern.) MKM

The post-fledging dependence period of the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) in southwestern Spain. J. Bustamante and J. J. Negro. 1994. *J. Raptor Res.* 28:158-163. Estacion Biol. de Donana, CSIC, Pabellon del Peru, Avda. Maria Luisa s/n 41013-Sevilla, Spain (Banding, sometimes supplemented with radiotransmitters, of young and most adult kestrels helped demonstrate that mean fledging age was 37 days, that young remained dependent on their parents for five additional days, and that young then dispersed, while adults remained at the nesting colony. Bands and transmitters also helped determine survival rate of young, with starvation the only known cause of death. Prior to fall migration, young dispersed 3-164 km from the colony.) MKM

Parent-offspring relations during the post-fledging dependency period in the Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) in Japan. K. Koga and S. Shiraishi. 1994. *J. Raptor Res.* 28:171-177. Zool. Lab., Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu Univ. 46-06, Fukuoka 812, Japan (Transmitters and colored leg bands placed on young kites at four nests showed that nestlings fledged at 58-63 days of age and became independent at an average of 46.8 days after fledging.) MKM

Ticks on African Marsh Warbler. H. D. Oschadleus, R. Geyser and H. Heyne. 1996. *Safring News* 25:13-14. CSIR, Box 395, Pretoria 0001, South Africa (In spite of having an infestation of more than 17 engorged nymphal ticks on its head, a mist-netted warbler appeared to be in good condition.) MKM

***Note:** Dave Sims kindly provided a reprint of his Black Shag paper, abstracted in this issue.

Currently searched journals and their abstractors are:

Alberta Naturalist -MKM
Atlantic Seabirds -MKM
Auk -GAS
Birding -SMS
Birds of Prey Bulletin -MKM
Bluebird -MKM
Blue Jay -MKM
British Columbia Birds -MKM
Bulletin of the British Ornithological Club -KCP
Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Science -CTC
Canadian Field-Naturalist -MKM
Canadian Journal of Zoology -RAR
Colonial Waterbirds -MKM
Condor -RCT
Corella -MKM (exchange)
Ecology -DMC
Hawk Migration Studies -MKM
Journal of Field Ornithology -RCT
Journal of Raptor Research -MKM
Living Bird Quarterly -CIS
North American Birds-MKM
Northwestern Naturalist -MKM
Ontario Bird Banding -MKM
Ontario Birds -MKM
Prairie Naturalist -MKM
Ringling & Migration -RCT
Safring News -MKM (exchange)
Wader Study Group Bulletin -MKM
Western Birds -RCT
Wildlife Monographs -DMC
Wildlife Society Bulletin -DMC
Wilson Bulletin -DMC

CTC = Charles T. Collins
DMC = Douglas M. Collister
MKM = Martin K. McNicholl
KCP = Kenneth C. Parkes
RAR = Ronald A. Ryder
CIS = Catherine I. Sandell
SMS = Sharon M. Skelly
GAS = Gregory A. Smith
RCT = Robert C. Tweit

Special thanks are due to Robert C. Tweit for abstracting *J. Wildl. Manage.* for several years. As Bob no longer subscribes to that journal, we require a new volunteer abstractor for it. Other journals formerly covered, but for which which we currently lack abstractors, include *Bird Study*, *British Birds*, *Connecticut Warbler*, *Ecological Monographs*, *Ibis*, *Jack-Pine Warbler*, *Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin*, *Kingbird*, *Loon*, *Ornis Fennica*, *Passenger Pigeon*, *Ring*, and *Science*. Numerous other regional journals appear not to have had abstractors at any time. Some from which the editor has requested copies of specific contributions to abstract in recent issues include *Alabama Birdlife*, *Bird Observer (Massachusetts)*, *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society*, *Iowa Bird Life*, *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, *Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science*, *Meadowlark*, *Michigan Birds & Natural History*, *Migrant*, *Notornis*, *Oriole*, *Raven*, *South Dakota Bird Notes*, *Southwestern Naturalist*, *Stilt* and *Utah Birds*. Readers interested in abstracting any of these or others not listed are invited to write the Literature Editor.

Books

LIFE OF THE FLYCATCHER

Alexander F. Skutch, illustrated by Dana Gardner, 1997. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. Hard cover, xiii + 162 pp. + 16 plates. \$40.00 U.S.

In this book, Central America's veteran nature writer has applied his usual combination of eloquent writing, scientific observation and literature research to the largest bird family "confined to the Americas" and managed to provide an excellent overall summary of what we know to date about this very diverse group of birds.

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North American Bird Bander

Although nobody could provide a comprehensive account of "about 380" species in a book of this length, Skutch weaves his personal observations with those published in books and major journals into a general survey of the life history of these widespread birds.

The book does not provide individual species accounts or accounts of sub-families or other groupings. Rather, a brief preface is followed by eleven topical chapters dealing with "the flycatcher family" (taxonomic placement and species diversity), "food and foraging," "daily life"

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