Based on the above characteristics, I aged the bird as AHY. Unexpectedly, upon skulling the bird, I found two small unpnuematized windows of uneven size at the top of the skull. The window on the right half measured 5.8 mm x 1.8 mm and the window on the left half measured 1.5 mm x 1.5 mm. The results of plumage and iris color assessments were: truncate rectrices and primary coverts, crown value of 2, iris color in Munsell range of dark reddish-brown, a color I find mostly on adult birds.

The bird was banded on 3 December 1999 as HY. The skull ossification was recorded with a MAPS value of 3, which equals 34-66% pneumatization of the skull. This includes the rear half and some of the front, midline, and sides of the skull. Plumage and iris assessments at that time were: rectrix shape not done due to unassessable condition of the feathers, primary coverts tapered, crown value of 2, iris color recorded as "gray-brown," a color I find mostly on young birds.

In the *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, Part I, by Peter Pyle (1997. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA), the author states that skulling is a very reliable technique for ageing passerines in the fall and, in some species, through the winter into spring. He cautions that, though some individuals of certain species can retain larger windows through spring, a variable number of individuals of species can show smaller windows and will never completely pneumatize their skulls. In several years of banding, I have examined the skulls of more than a thousand GCSPs and have found skulling to be very reliable for ageing individuals of this species. I have found that complete skull pneumatization of HY birds may be expected beginning in mid-November, but many young birds can show large windows, greater than 2 mm, well into December. Rarely I find individuals demonstrating smaller windows into January.

The GCSP I recaptured in November is the only bird of this species I have observed that demonstrated an incomplete skull this far into its second year. Indeed, it may be an individual who retains pneumatized windows for the rest of its life.

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Recent Literature

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REVIEWS

A bibliometric review of the recent literature in ornithology. L. M. Bautista and J. C. Pantoja. 2000. *Ardeola* 47:109-121. Departmento de Ecologia, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales,CSIC, José Guti'errez Abascal, 2.28006, Madrid, Espana (A review of 1,308,244 papers abstracted in *Zoological Record* between 1978 and 1998 indicated that 15% were on birds, second only to the number of papers on insects. A comparison of these with papers abstracted in earlier decades demonstrated trends in research within ornithology, with significant increases in the proportion of papers on population dynamics, physiology and biochemistry, and predation, declines in the proportion of papers on catalogues, checklists and atlases and on breeding biology, and little change in the proportion of other topics. While single-author papers are most frequent, the proportion of co-authored papers has increased, as has the average number of authors per paper.) MKM

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Myrtle Agnes Biggs (1912-1998). R. Kilsdonk. 1999. *Alta. Nat.* 29:71. 23 Oriole Crescent., Sherwood Park, Alta. T8A 0B2 (Brief biography of prominent Alberta naturalist, photographer and artist, whose contributions to ornithology included banding of young hawks on coulee cliffs as early as 1938.) MKM

In appreciation [:] George Underhill 1918-1997. M. Fraser. 1997. *Safring News* 26:37-39. The Manse, East Lothian EH39 SEL, Scotland (Tribute to outstanding amateur ornithologist, who learned to band while a participant in a swallow-banding project and became a leading bander and banding trainer in South Africa. His contributions to other cooperative projects, especially a nest records scheme, are also outlined.) MKM

Audubon, John James. S. Cooper. 1997. pp. 34-37 *in* K. B. Sterling, R. P. Harmond, G. A. Cevasco and L. F. Hammond (eds.). Biographical dictionary of American and Canadian naturalists and environmentalists. Greenwood Press, Westport, CT. address unknown. (Brief biography of eminent bird artist and early ornithologist, whose contributions included the first documented "banding" of birds in 1803.) MKM

Bartsch, Paul. P. M. Henson. 1997. pp. 65-67 *in* K. B. Sterling, R. P. Harmond, G. A. Cevasco and L. F. Hammond (eds.). Biographical dictionary of American and Canadian naturalists and environmentalists. Greenwood Press, Westport, CT. address unknown. (Biography of biologist whose study of Black-crowned Night-Herons was the first to use bird-banding extensively.) MKM

Broley, Charles (Lavelle). M. K. McNicholl. 1997. pp. 116-117 *in* K. B. Sterling, R. P. Harmond, G. A. Cevasco and L. F. Hammond (eds.). Biographical dictionary of American and Canadian naturalists and environmentalists. Greenwood Press, Westport, CT. 4735 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1L3 (Brief biography of banker whose "retirement" project of banding over 1200 Bald Eagles in Florida demonstrated extensive post-breeding wandering in population previously considered "resident.") MKM

In memoriam [:] J. Bernard "Bernie" Gollop, 1926-2000. C. S. Houston, J. F. Roy and A. Dzubin. 2000. *Blue Jay* 58:109-112. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (Biography of chief of Canadian Wildlife Service in Saskatchewan, whose many contributions to ornithology included the pioneering of the use of dogs in Saskatchewan to capture ducks for banding. His combined use of dogs and drive traps resulted in the capture of 340 young Mallards on two ponds in a single year.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Setting mist nets from platforms in the forest canopy. A. E. Stokes, B. B. Schultz, R. M. DeGraaf and C. R. Griffin. 2000. *J. Field Ornithol.* 71:57-65. Dept. Forest & Wildlife Management, Univ.Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003 (Nets were rolled in and out horizontally from platforms in western Massachusetts. These nets were affected more than ground nets by wind and light rain.) RCT

Return rates of banded granivores in relation to band color and number of bands worn. J. Verner, D. Breese and K. L. Purcell. 2000. *J. Field Ornithol.* 71:117-125. Pac. Southwest Res. Stn., U.S.D.A. Forest Serv., 2081 E. Sierra Ave., Fresno, CA 93710 (No effect of number of bands was found on towhees and sparrows. Results were less clear for color.) RCT

Capturing American Black Ducks in tidal waters. M. K. Harrison, Sr., G. M. Haramis, D. G. Jorde and D. B. Stotts. 2000. *J. Field Ornithol.* 71:153-158. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Martin Natl. Wildl. Ref., Euell, MD 21824 (With modified, baited funnel traps.) RCT

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS, AND MEASUREMENTS

Sex and age determination of Short-eared Owl nestlings. B. E. Arroyo, T. DeCornulier and V. Bretagnolle. 2000. *Condor* 102:216-219. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Centre d' Etudes Biologiques de Chizé, Villiers en Bois, F-7930, France. (Mass can be used to estimate age up to 15 days and wing chord after that. Markings on secondaries correspond to sex after 10-15 days.) RCT

Body weight and feather growth of male Barrow's Goldeneye during wing molt. D. van de Wetering and F. Cooke. 2000. *Condor* 102:228-231. Can. Wildl. Serv., 91782 Alaska Hwy., Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 5B7 (Primary length increased 2.6% per day.) RCT

Plumage and molt terminology. R. Pittaway. 2000. *Ont. Birds* 18:27-43. Box 619, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 (Detailed review of various terms, including "general" terminology, North American banding codes, and the terminology of Humphrey and Parkes. A table compares general terms with those of Humphrey and Parkes for birds that molt once per year and those that molt twice per year. North American species known to molt once and twice per year are listed, as are "selected" references.) MKM

Molt cycles and sequences in the Western Gull. S. N. G. Howell and C. Corben. 2000. *West. Birds* 31:38-49. Point Reyes Bird Observ., 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970 (Western Gull has two molts per year, one partial and one complete.) RCT

Commentary on molt and plumage terminology: implications from the Western Gull. S. N. G. Howell and C. Corban. 2000. *West. Birds* 31:50-56. Point Reyes Bird Observ., 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970 (A revision to the Humphrey-Parkes system is suggested.) RCT

Techniques to sex and age Great Gray Owls. J. Duncan. 1996. *Birders* ['] *J.* 5:240-246. Box 253, Balmoral, Man. R0C 0H0 (Owls were sexed by discriminant function analysis and aged by noting retained juvenal primaries and secondaries.) RCT

An aberrant mockingbird. W. E. Davis, Jr. 1995. *Bird Observer* (Massachusetts) 23:161-164. 127 East St., Foxboro, MA 02035 (Description and photographs of a nonmelanic leucistic Northern Mockingbird with normal eye color, cream-colored plumage and grayish-pink legs and bill. Earlier reports of abnormal plumages in this species are also reviewed.) MKM

The evolution, ecology, and decline of the Red Crossbill of Newfoundland. C. W. Benkman. 1993. *Amer. Birds* 47:225-229. Dept. Biol., Box 30001, New Mexico State Univ., Las Cruces, NM 88003 (Includes data on lengths of upper and lower mandibles and depths and widths of upper mandibles of North American race of White-winged Crossbill and three races of Red Crossbill from both North America and Eurasia.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

The November 1999 Cave Swallow invasion in Ontario and northeastern North America. B. Curry and K. A. McLaughlin. 2000. *Ont. Birds* 18:13-26. Unit 30, 3115 New St., Burlington, Ont. L7N 3T6 (Photographs of a bird caught and banded at Long Point helped document a remarkable influx of Cave Swallows into Ontario and surrounding areas. Measurements of the Long Point bird and two specimens indicated that *Petrochelidon fulva pallida* was the race involved in the influx.) MKM

Yodelers of the north. P. St. John. 1993. *Amer. Birds* 47:202-209. c/o Natl. Audubon Soc., 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 (General article on some of the recent research on Common Loons in the U.S. portion of their range, including the banding studies of David Evers, who banded 442 loons between 1988 and 1992. Observations of banded birds in Michigan has shown that loons switch mates soon after nest failure and that they tend to return to the same lakes to nest from one year to the next.) MKM

Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 1999. K. J. Roy. 2000. *Ont. Birds* 18:53-72. 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ont. L0S 1E3 (Banding operations helped document extralimital occurrences in Ontario of Cave Swallow and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch and helped determine the race of each. Two color bands on the right leg of a Piping Plover at Hamilton, Ontario, showed that it had been banded at Whitefish Point, Michigan.) MKM

Some aspects of the biology of White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*) in the Alberta Rockies III. Ecology and productivity on preferred breeding range. J. R. Salt. 1999. *Alta. Nat.* 29:47-50. 464 Nelson St., Victoria, BC V9A 6P4 (Color banding in two study areas helped determine distances between brood hens and degree of site-tenacity for nesting and brood-rearing between years.) MKM

Some bird observations in Manitoba in 1999. B. Koonz. 2000. *Blue Jay* 58:65-68. Wildl. Branch, Man. Conservation, Box 24, Saulteaux Crescent,

Winnipeg, Man. R3J 3W3 (Including banding of family groups of Canada Geese at Churchill.) MKM

The nature of Barred Owl daytime roost sites in Saskatchewan. K. M. Mazur, S. D. Frith, and P. C. James. 2000. *Blue Jay* 58:69-71. Man. Conservation, Box 24, Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg, Man. R3J 3W3 (Data from 15 adult radio-tagged Barred Owls in Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan, and vicinity showed that the owls tended to roost in the area in which they had hunted the previous night, and that they often moved to new areas on subsequent nights. Winter home ranges in Saskatchewan boreal forest averaged six times larger than those known from southern and eastern portions of the species' range, but summer home ranges were similar in size to those in other parts of the range. Data on daytime roost trees of nine radio-tagged owls are included.) MKM

The Great Gray Owl in Manitoba, winter 1995-96 and 1996-97. R. W. Nero. 2000. *Blue Jay* 58:72-76. 546 Coventry Rd., Winnipeg, Man. R3R 1B6 (During these two winters of record Great Gray Owl flights, Nero and Herb Copland exceeded their previous banding record of 88 Great Gray Owls banded in the winter of 1978-1979 by banding 115 in 1995-1996 and 121 in 1996-1997, bringing the total banded by them and other colleagues in Manitoba to 1191. In contrast, Copland and Nero banded only one Great Gray during the winter of 1994-1995 and only 13 were reported by all observers during the winter of 1997-1998.) MKM

Biennial redpoll invasions. C. S. Houston, M. I. Houston and A. R. Smith. 2000. *Blue Jay* 58:116-124. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (Banding data from Winnipeg, Manitoba 1964-1976 and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan 1964-2000 suggest that redpolls "invade" those two provinces every second year, possibly in relation to degree of seed production by Dwarf Birch in Arctic areas. Redpolls in Saskatoon were especially abundant during the 2000 portion of the winter of 1999-2000, with 1483 Common Redpolls banded at the home of the Houstons and 154 more banded at Smith's home. The Houstons had 251 retraps of 183 individuals, while Smith had 36 recaptures of 24 individuals. A few individuals also moved between the two homes.) MKM

Seasonal movements, migration and home range sizes of subadult and adult Bamforth Lake California Gulls. B. H. Pugesk, K. L. Diem and C. L. Cordes. 1999. *Waterbirds* 22:29-36. U.S. Geol. Surv., Biol. Resources Div., Natl. Wetlands Res. Cent., 700 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506 (Recoveries from 9,693 chick and 1,650 adult California Gulls banded in Wyoming 1958-1994 and sightings of patagial markings of 764 of these chicks and 679 on the adults were used to examine and map seasonal movements of fledglings, one-two year olds and breeding-age adults. Fledglings tended to move directly to the Pacific Coast after the breeding season and tended to wander farther than older birds, providing both the northernmost and southernmost recoveries. Gulls generally moved north and northwest after the breeding season, then moved south along the Pacific Coast during winter, concentrating during spring in southern California and northern Mexico.) MKM

Aspects of chick growth in Gull-billed Terns in coastal Virginia. R. M. Erwin, T. B. Eyler, D. B. Stotts and J. S. Hatfield. 1999. *Waterbirds* 22:47-53. U.S.G.S. Patuxent Wildl. Res. Cent., Dept. Environ. Science, Clark Hall, Univ. Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903 (Chicks were marked on the wing coverts with nail polish until the "tarsus" was large enough [three to four days] for a standard aluminum band. Mass and culmen growth rates were higher in chicks from marsh shell piles than in those from barrier islands, first-hatched chicks had higher culmen growth rates than those of second-hatched chicks, and mass growth rates varied among years.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Satellite tracking of high-Arctic Northern Fulmars. K. Falk and S. Moller. 1995. *Polar Biol.* 15:495-502. Ornis Consult, 140 Vesterbrogade, DK-1620 Copenhagen V, Denmark (Of eight birds fitted with satellite transmitters [five] or related devices, two failed to return to their nests and none succeeded in raising chicks, possibly because of trauma associated with the brief handling period. Three were tracked after their breeding failure to a nearby polynya. The transmitters provided data on

distance moved [up to 2,043 km in 14 days], distance covered per day [average 143 km; maximum 369 km], flight speeds, relationships between flight tracks and ice edge, and effects of cross and tail winds on flight paths.) MKM

Selected recoveries reported to Safring: July 1996-December 1996. T. Oatley. 1997. *Safring News* 26:25-33. Safring, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa (Details of 98 recoveries of 53 species banded in and/or recovered in southern Africa. Records of species that also occur in North America that were recovered in South Africa were of a European Storm-Petrel banded in Norway, Common Terns banded in Finland, Latvia and Norway, an Arctic Tern banded in Scotland and a Sandwich Tern banded in Denmark. Records of species that occur in North America that were banded in South Africa were a Black-bellied Plover recovered in Ukraine and a Caspian Tern recovered in Mozambique. Records of species that occur in North America that were banded and recovered within South Africa were a Barn Owl and a House Sparrow.) MKM

Palearctic migrants at Ngulia, Kenya. Z. Bernitz and H. Bernitz. 1997. *Safring News* 26:34-35. Box 1276, Middelburg, Mpumalanga 1050, South Africa (Highlights of 1996 multinational banding effort in an area where 203,842 birds have been banded since 1969, including 29,951 in 1996 and 18,336 in 1997. Details are given of seven of the 81 recoveries to date.) MKM

Red Knots *Calidris canutus rufa* at their farthest south: an international expedition to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, in February 1995. A. J. Baker, R. E. Manriquez, L. G. Benegas, D. E. Blanco, O. Borowik, E. Ferrando, P. de Geoij, P. M. Gonzalez, J. Gonzalez, C. D. T. Minton, M. Peck, T. Piersma and M. Salvina Ramirez. 1996. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 79:103-108. Dept. Ornithol., Royal Ont. Mus., 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6 (Shorebirds captured in cannon nets included a single catch of about 850 Red Knots, 34 Hudsonian Godwits and about 150 Magellanic Oystercatchers. Data on morphometrics, molt, body weight and age were recorded from 599 of these 850 knots, and 396 of these were color-banded. Among the 599 processed knots were eight previously banded in Brazil and U.S.A. Some of the birds banded at Rio Grande were observed or recaptured subsequently in Brazil. Data on age and molt condition of knots, Hudsonian Godwits and White-rumped Sandpipers are also included.) MKM

The annual mortality rate of Black-legged Kittiwakes in NE England from 1954 to 1998 and a recent exceptionally high mortality. G. C. Coulson and J. Strowger. 1999. *Waterbirds* 22:3-13. 29 St. Mary's Close, Shincliffe Village, Durham City DH1 2ND, UK (Annual and long-term mortality trends are presented, based on 45 years of color-banding data at colonies near the mouth of the River Tyne on the North Sea.) MKM

Note: Thanks to Luis Miguel Bautista, William E. (Ted) Davis, Jr. and Knud Falk for reprints of papers abstracted in this issue.

This section of *NABB* is intended to draw the attention of banders to journal literature of specific interest to them (studies based on banded birds, trapping techniques, plumage variation, molt and related topics). Banders who have access to the internet should also check *Recent Ornithological Literature*, a world-wide compilation, for other recent publications relevant to their projects. Unfortunately, recent issues of *ROL* are not available in printed form, but those with internet access can reach it at www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ROL/index.html.

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl
RCT = Robert C. Tweit