

# Recent Literature

## BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

**de Kiriline Lawrence, Louise (Vendela Augusta Jana Flach).** E. T. Crossfield. 1997. pp. 435-436 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, Conn. address unknown. (Brief biography of one of pioneers of use of color-banding to determine life history and behavioral details of individual birds.) MKM

**Lawrence, Alexander George ("Lawrie").** M. K. McNicholl. 1997. pp. 448-450 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, Conn. 4735 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1L3 (Brief biography of most prominent ornithologist in Manitoba from 1920s until his death in 1961. His many contributions included some banding when banding was co-ordinated by the American Banding Association.) MKM

## BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

**A design for a portable, safe trap for birds.** R. D. McGrath and C. E. Crowley. 1996. *Corella* 20:34. Div. Bot. & Zool., Australian Natl. Univ., Canberra 0200, Australia (Hoop trap made of fibreglass and netting, with sliding doors at each end.) MKM

**The colour-marking of waders in the CIS.** P. Tomkovitch. 1996. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 80:23-24. Zool. Mus. of Moscow State Univ., Bol. Nikitskaya St. 6, Moscow 103009, Russia (Results of survey of ornithologists in the former Soviet Union to determine what materials and colours were used to mark various shorebird species in the past and currently, when materials are often in short supply or not available.) MKM

## IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS, AND MEASUREMENTS

**Two presumed Mallard x Gadwall hybrids (*Anas platyrhynchos* x *A. strepera*) in Lincoln**

**County, Oregon.** K. Merrifield. 1998. *Northwest Nat.* 79:54-58. Dept. Botany & Plant Pathol., Oregon State Univ., 2082 Cordley Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-2902 (Detailed, illustrated, descriptions of two males in comparison with descriptions of three hybrids reported previously.) MKM

**Comparison of water consumption between two grassland emberizids.** J. L. Zimmerman. 1995. *Prairie Nat.* 27:215-221. Div. Biol., Ackert Hall, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506-4901 (Mean mass of male Dickcissels mist-netted in Kansas was 28.2 g ( $\pm 0.44$ ), while that of females was 26.2 g ( $\pm 0.38$ ), that of male Lark Buntings 35.7 g ( $\pm 0.52$ ) and that of females 35.1 g ( $\pm 0.40$ .) MKM

**Measurements, moult and residency of Kurricane Buttonquail *Turnix sylvatica* in Swaziland, captured in small mammal traps.** A. Monadjem. 1997. *Safring News* 26:63-65. Univ. Swaziland, Private Bag 4, Kwaluseni, Swaziland (Mass on first and last capture, wing length, tarsus length, and culmen length are given for eight buttonquail captured during mammal studies. Notes are included on molt condition in September and December and on recaptures.) MKM

**Herons in hiding [:] the brown jobbies.** E. A. T. Blom. 2001. *Bird Watcher's Digest* 23(6):35-39. Address not indicated. (Illustrative descriptions and comparisons of juvenile night-herons and American Bittern, with brief note on juvenile Green Heron. Bill size, shape and color, facial pattern, underpart and upperpart patterns, wing pattern in flight, habitat, and behavior are all discussed in terms of distinguishing bitterns from night-herons, whereas the bill color is considered the most helpful of several features distinguishing the two night-heron species.) MKM

## NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

**Estimates of shorebird populations in North America.** R. I. G. Morrison, R. E. Gill, Jr., B. A. Harrington, S. Skagen, G. W. Page, C. L. Gratto-Trevor, and S. M. Haig. 2001. *Can. Wildl. Serv. Occas. Pap.* No. 104. Natl. Wildl. Res. Centre, Can. Wildl. Serv., Environ. Canada, 100 Gamelin Blvd., Hull, Que. K1A 0H3 (Estimates are given of

populations of all shorebird species occurring in North America and Hawaii, based on a combination of breeding, migratory stop-over and wintering area surveys. Although banding is rarely mentioned specifically, assessments of estimates are based at least partly on turn-over rates, known from banding studies and banding is mentioned specifically as being combined with wintering ground surveys to estimate numbers of Red Knots and as being combined with aerial surveys of the main South American wintering sites to estimate numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers. Mark/recapture ratios are also mentioned as featuring in the second most accurate estimate category ("good"), as applied to Snowy and Mountain plovers and Western Sandpiper. Banding recoveries suggest that Purple Sandpipers breeding in more northern parts of the Canadian Arctic may winter in Europe.) MKM

**Birding in Middlesex summer 2000.** P. Read. 2000. *Cardinal* 181:14-15. R.R. 3, Komoka, Ont. N0L 1R0 (A banded female Peregrine Falcon fledged in London, Ontario, was later recaptured and released in Mississauga, Ontario.) MKM

**Banding records: 1940-2000.** E. T. Jones. 2001. *Alta. Nat.* 31:12-13. #119 215 Blackburn Dr. E., SW, Edmonton, Alta. T6W 1B9 (The first of a series of summaries based on 95,000 birds of 300+ species banded to date by Edgar T. and Jeanne Jones. Longevity and location details are given of one Mallard and nine Northern Pintails banded in 1940 at Many Island Lake, Alberta, and recovered in California, Idaho, North Dakota, and Texas and of one Canada Goose, one American Wigeon, three Mallards and one Lesser Scaup banded in six U.S. states and recovered at various Alberta sites. A table lists numbers by geographic location of recoveries in 24 U.S. states, four Canadian provinces and Central America of waterfowl banded at Many Island Lake 1940-1946.) MKM

**The Beaverhill Lake Natural Area, a wonderful place!** C. Priestley. 2001. *Alta. Nat.* 31:14. c/o Fed. Alta. Nat., 11759 Groat Rd., Edmonton, Alta. T5M 3K6 (General account of area, including banding operations of Beaverhill Bird Observatory.) MKM

**Productivity, food habits, and behavior of Swainson's Hawks breeding in southeast**

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**Colorado.** D. E. Anderson. 1995. *J. Raptor Res.* 29:158-165 Minn. Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, U.S. Natl. Biol. Serv., Dept. Fish. & Wildl., Univ. Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 (Home ranges of radio-marked adult males were larger than those of adult females. Two of six radio-tagged birds returned with functional radios the year after they were attached.) MKM

**Reproductive performance, age structure, and natal dispersal of Swainson's Hawks in the Butte Valley, California.** B. Woodbridge, K. K. Finley and P. H. Bloom. 1995. *J. Raptor Res.* 29:187-192. U.S.D.A. Forest Serv., Klamath Natl. Forest, 1312 Fairlane Rd., Yreka, CA 96097 (Of 567 nestling Swainson's Hawks banded during 1979-1994, 41 were later recaptured as breeding adults when 3-15 years old [mean 5.9 years]. Eight others were recovered in Latin America. Breeding adults were caught at nest-sites with a mist-net/live Great Horned Owl decoy combination, resulting in a high frequency of marked birds [80% in 1994] in the breeding population. Thirty-six color-marked birds observed in 1993 and/or 1994 ranged in age from 4 to 15 years, mean 8.2 years. Dispersal distances of the 41 nestlings recaptured as adults averaged 8.8 km, ranging from 0 to 18.1 km. Another banded nestling was found breeding in the Klamath Valley, 36.8 km away. Other recoveries were in Oregon and Nevada. Bands also provided data on 25 interterritory movements and ages at death for two birds.) MKM

**Home range and habitat use of breeding Swainson's Hawks in the Sacramento Valley of California.** K. W. Babcock. 1995. *J. Raptor Res.* 29:193-197. Michael Brandman Associates, Suite 100, 10423 Old Placerville Rd., Sacramento, CA 95827 (Home range sizes, foraging distances and habitat use of three males and one female were determined through radio-tags.) MKM

**An investigation of the Swainson's Hawk in Argentina.** B. Woodbridge, K. L. Finley and S. T. Seager. 1995. *J. Raptor Res.* 29:202-204. U.S.D.A. Forest Serv., Klamath Natl. Forest, 1312 Fairlane Rd., Yreka, CA 96097 (Two adult females were captured at California nests and fitted with satellite transmitters. One was followed on fall migration into Arizona, when the transmitter failed. The other was followed through Arizona, Mexico,

Central America, and Brazil into Argentina, where she wintered for six weeks. The authors observed seven other banded birds among Swainson's Hawk flocks in Argentina. Three found dead were from California, Colorado, and Saskatchewan, and two others had California color bands.) MKM

**Cooperative nesting by a trio of Bald Eagles.** D. K. Garcelon, G. L. Slater, C. D. Danilson, and R. C. Helm. 1995. *J. Raptor Res.* 29:210-213. Inst. Wildl. Studies, Box 1104, Arcata, CA 95521 (Band position helped sort out the behavior of each of three adults at a nest on Santa Catalina Island, California.)MKM

**Near longevity record for the Snow Goose.** M. T. Koenen and D. M. Leslie, Jr. 1995. *Prairie Nat.* 27:211-213. U.S. Natl. Biol. Serv., Oklahoma Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, Dept. Zool., Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater, OK 74078 (A Lesser Snow Goose of unknown sex banded in Texas in 1971 was killed in Saskatchewan 25 years and five months later, slightly younger than the longevity record of 26 years and seven months.) MKM

**Rare or unusual bird sightings for Beaverhill Lake, AB, 1996-2000.** D. T. T. Flockhart. *Blue Jay* 59:33-39. 43 Westworth Cres., St. Albert, Alta. T8N 3G7 (Records of 30 species extralimital to Beaverhill Lake, northeast of Edmonton. Documentation included banding of four Long-eared Owls and one each Loggerhead Shrike, Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Varied Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, and Black-throated Blue Warbler.) MKM

**Observations from banding House Finches in the fall of 1995 at Regina, SK.** D. Hjertaas and P. Hjertaas. 2001. *Blue Jay* 59:86-89. 15 Olson Pl., Regina, Sask. S4S 2J6 (After the first occurrence of House Finches at the authors' residence in 1994, they observed groups of up to 11 in 1995. Banding showed that more birds were actually present, with nine banded in the spring of 1995 and 81 banded that fall. Few were recaptured and the flock seldom contained more than 25% banded birds. A review of earlier records indicates that only 11 House Finches had been documented in Saskatchewan by 1990.) MKM

**Identity of a swallow recovered in Bolivia: a correction.** C. S. Houston. 2001. *Blue Jay* 59:101-102. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (A Bank Swallow banded in Saskatchewan on 7 July 1929 and recovered in 1935 in Bolivia was entered in the recovery records under the AOU code for Barn Swallow, an error repeated in F. C. Lincoln's 1939 book on the migration of birds and the 1958 book, "1001 questions answered about birds" by Allan and Helen Cruickshank. Biographical notes on the bander, Richard H. Carter, Jr., and his work with his brother J. R. Carter are included.) MKM

## NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

**Bird longevity in the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe—drought survivors.** D. B. Hanmer. 1997. *Safring News* 26:47-54. Mitsasa, Box 3076, Paulington, Mutare, Zimbabwe (Retraps, resightings and recoveries of 30 species three or more years after being banded suggest that males tend to be slightly longer-lived than females and that adults survive drought conditions better than immatures.) MKM

**The Nyika bird project.** J. Haugaard. 1997. *Safring News* 26:55-62. Box 409, Blantyre, Malawi (Mist-netting was included among techniques used to assess the bird populations of a northern extension of Nyika National Park, Malawi. Netting was conducted at five sites, with seven to 108 birds captured per site. An appendix lists a selection of the birds caught.) MKM

**Selected recoveries reported to Safring: January 1997 - June 1997.** T. B. Oatley and C. C. Best. 1997. *Safring News* 26:72-80. Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa (Details of 106 recoveries of 49 species banded and/or recovered in southern Africa, including places of banding and recovery, age at recovery, and distance between banding and recovery sites. Species that also occur in North America include Wandering Albatross, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern and Barn Swallow.) MKM

**A year's ringing at Phakalane Sewage Lagoons in south east Botswana.** S. J. Tyler and L. Tyler. 1997. *Safring News* 26:81-82. Room 106, DAHP, Private Bag 0032, Gaborone, Botswana (Highlights of netting efforts included the capture of the first Basra Reed Warbler for Botswana and the capture of 53 European Reed Warblers, formerly regarded as a rare Palearctic migrant to southern Africa.) MKM

**Note:** Special thanks to Al and Jude Grass for the gift of *Bird Watcher's Digest* 23(6) abstracted in this issue, a gift that helped start my recovery from a recent coma.

**MKM** = Martin K. McNicholl



## Books

### **FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF CUBA.**

By Orlando H. Garrido and Arturo Kirkconnell. 2000. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. xvi + 253 pp. Paper \$29.95 U.S.; cloth \$59.95 U.S.

What do Zapata Rail, Bee Hummingbird, Gundlach's Hawk, Giant Kingbird, Fernandina's Flicker, and Blue-headed Quail-Dove mean to you? We suspect that to many of us they are unfamiliar, even though they are found on an island complex less than 145 km. (90 miles) from Florida. These birds and Cuba's 15 other endemic species are a small portion of the 354 species recorded in the country, the main island of which is one of the four major West Indies islands. The size of the avifauna is impressive for an area slightly smaller than the state of Pennsylvania.

Many species of the Cuban avifauna have North American origins; fewer apparently originated in Central America and northern South America. The latter presumably reached Cuba when it was part of a peninsula which extended from the northwest of South America to the Greater Antilles millions of years ago. More recently, rising sea levels submerged much of this peninsula, isolating the islands of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispanola, and Puerto Rico, and allowing the evolution of endemic species on each island.

Cuba's fossil record provides a fascinating insight into past avifaunas on the island. For instance, in the absence of large carnivorous mammals, that ecological niche was filled by large raptors, including owls, which may have survived until the arrival of the first humans, perhaps only 7,000-8,000 years ago.

One of the appeals of perusing an island bird book is the opportunity to compare the island's avifauna with those of larger nearby landmasses. For example, Cuba's two crows are West Indian endemics, and its only grackle is the Greater Antillean. Nearby Florida shores, only 145 km distant, host American and Fish crows and Boat tailed Grackles. Of Cuba's four breeding warbler species, only the Yellow Warbler is shared with North America, and two of the others are Cuban endemics. Cuba has three breeding blackbird species, two endemic and one shared with Hispanola, but no North American species. Cuba's only breeding oriole is the Black-cowled, not reported from the United States. Other species, such as Masked Duck, are common in Cuba, but just casual in Florida.

Unfortunately, some of Cuba's endemic and rare species face an uncertain future. A few Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, once shared with the southeastern United States, where it is now apparently extinct, may survive in the mountains. Zapata Rail and Zapata Wren have extremely limited ranges in freshwater marshes in the vicinity of Santo Thomas and are considered endangered.

This new guide illustrates all but five of the species recorded in Cuba on 51 color plates. The images are large and clear, but appear lifeless and are sometimes superimposed rather awkwardly on a swatch of background vegetation, as in the case of Zapata Rail on plate 14. While the text is cross-referenced to the plates, the plates are unfortunately not cross-referenced to the text. The plates are uncluttered by any identifying names or other marks; instead these appear on a subdued monochrome facsimile of the plate on the facing