

be significantly different, it is probably unwise to rely on this measurement to select band size as the overlap is quite high [overall female wing 72-87 mm vs male wing 75-94 mm; *P. m. falcifer* female wing 73-85 mm vs male wing 77-90 mm; *P.m. megalonyx* female wing 74-87 mm vs male wing 78-90 mm] (Pyle 1997).

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Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Remembering Marshall Field. W. Wake. 2008. *Cardinal* 210:8. c/o McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, Ontario, Box 24008, London, ON N6H 5C4 (brief biography of St. Thomas, ON bander of 60 years, prominently involved in the Hawk Cliff Banding Station, Long Point Bird Observatory and Ontario Bird Banding Association.) MKM

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Evaluation of radio transmitters for measuring chick mortality in the Banded Dotterel. R. Keedwell. 2001. *Waterbirds* 24:217-223. Ecol. Group, Inst. Nat. Resources, Massey Univ., Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North, New Zealand (Elastic harnesses were used to attach transmitters to 49 chicks in New Zealand. As entanglement in the harnesses killed three chicks, 26 chicks died of unknown causes, the predator identity was uncertain for the minimum of 18% that were predated, and 12 transmitters disappeared, this technique yielded too little information to be suitable for this type of study. The transmitters did not appear to affect growth rates of the six chicks known to have fledged.) MKM

Vulture watching! Turkey Vulture studies in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Venezuela. [R.] W. Nelson. 2007. *Nature Alberta* 37(2):12-13. 4218-63 St., Camrose, AB T4V 2W2 (Brief description of wing-tagging projects of Nelson and associates in Alberta, C. Stuart Houston and associates in Saskatchewan and Keith L. Bildstein in Venezuela, with request for reports of sightings of wing-tagged birds.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Reduction in body mass and basal metabolic rate in breeding female Black-legged Kittiwakes *Rissa tridactyla*: an adaptation to reduce maintenance costs? I. Langseth, B. Moe and C. Bech. 2001. *Atlantic Seabirds* 3:165-178. Dept. Zool., Norwegian Univ. of Sci. & Technol., NO-7491 Trondheim, Norway (Body mass and basal metabolic rate of 40 nesting females measured two weeks before hatching, at hatching, early in the chick-rearing period and late in the chick-rearing were found to remain relatively stable during hatching. Body mass declined about 12% from hatching to late chick-rearing, while basal metabolic rate declined about 26%. Neither

body mass nor basal metabolic rate changed significantly from about two weeks to about four weeks into the chick-rearing period.) MKM

Sexing adult Cory's Shearwater by discriminant analysis of body measurements on Linosa Island (Sicilian Channel), Italy. M. Lo Valvo. 2001. *Waterbirds* 24:169-174. Dept. Animal Biol., Univ. Palermo, Via Archirafi 18, I-90123, Palermo, Italy (Sex determination by discriminant analysis of bill length, bill depth, wing, tail, tarsus and mass was compared with sex determination by multiplying bill length by bill depth. Bill depth classified sex with up to 92% accuracy, mass 84%. Mass was determined easier, with less disturbance. One or more measurement(s) was/were taken on 725 birds from 1982-1986, with sample sizes, means and standard deviations for each of the six measurements and bill depth x length tabulated for 49-301 females and 49-317 males.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

The effect of siblings on nest site homing by Common Tern chicks: a benefit of kin recognition. B. G. Palestis and H. Burger. 2001. *Waterbirds* 24:175-181. Dept. Biol. Sci., Wagner College, Staten Island, NY 10301-4495 (Ability of 70 banded chicks displaced at four days of age about 1 m. from their Connecticut colony nests to return quickly to their nest-sites was higher if a true sibling was in the nest than if it was empty or had a non-sibling in the nest. Presence or absence of chicks in neighboring nests had less influence.) MKM

Site fidelity and reproductive success of Black Oystercatchers in British Columbia. S. L. Hazlitt and R. W. Butler. 2001. *Waterbirds* 24:203-207. [current address of Hazlitt unknown]; Butler: Bird Studies Canada, 5421 Robertson Rd., R.R. 1, Delta, B.C. V4K 3N2 (Thirty of 34 color-banded pairs on Stewart Island, B.C. used the same territory in 1997 as in 1996. Site fidelity was stronger in territories in which at least one chick was fledged the previous year than in territories in which no chicks were fledged.) MKM

Daily activity budgets and population size of American White Pelicans wintering in south Louisiana and the Delta Region of Mississippi. D. T. King and S. J. Werner. *Waterbirds* 24:250-264.

Monitoring radio transmitters attached to 21 pelicans during winter and early spring 1994-1997 showed that pelicans at catfish ponds spent about 4% of the day foraging and 96% loafing, whereas pelicans in other habitats foraged about 28% of the time and loafed 72% of the time. The transmitters also provided data on numbers of foraging sessions per individual bird and duration of each foraging session.) MKM

The Allegheny Front Migration Observatory: a long-term bird banding project. G. A. Hall. 2007. Brooks Bird Club, Inc. Special Publication No. 3. 30 pp. author deceased. (Visits to the Allegheny Front by the Brooks Bird Club to count migrating raptors in the 1950s led Ralph K. Bell in fall 1957 and George A. Hall in spring 1958 to conceive independently of a long-term fall banding project there as part of "Operation Recovery." This report summarizes the history, efforts and results of the first 43 years of the project, when 184,773 birds of 119 forms [117 species and two hybrids] were banded by about 50 banders. The report includes a description of the station site, including problems posed by vegetative growth over 42 years. Patterns of fall migratory movement in relation to local topography and weather are outlined, followed by an overview of avian activity and mist-net capture patterns in the post-breeding /fall migration season. Effects of wind direction, precipitation and fog are outlined, including occasions when hurricanes caused the station to close, followed by major banding days. Wind direction and strength affects both numbers of birds moving through and tightness of nets. Daily flight times of different groups of birds and effects of different patterns of wind direction are also discussed. After initial non-standardized efforts in a campground, net-sites were moved and efforts standardized. Numbers of bandings and effort are summarized in tables and graphs. Numbers of each species caught are tabulated for 1958-1972 and 1973-2000, along with range of numbers/year and "average." Wood Warblers constituted 73% of bandings and eight of the ten most-banded species. Migrants were classified as long distance, short distance, nonmigrants and unclassified, with 154,003 [not 54,003 as indicated in Table 4] birds of 58 species long distance migrants. Recoveries elsewhere of 49 Allegheny Front-banded birds and recoveries at Allegheny Front of nine birds banded

elsewhere are mentioned, with a reference to further details. Usual peaks and lows are summarized for several species, dividing the fall into four periods, in graphs, tables and the text. Long-term capture trends are graphed and discussed, with several notable declines, especially in "budworm warblers" and two thrush species. These declines may reflect population declines, as they correspond to trends at banding sites in Ontario and Pennsylvania, but may also result from local or widespread weather effects, changes to local vegetation and/or other factors. Hall also comments on trends continuing beyond 2000 and possible future effects, such as wind farms under construction on the escarpment. An annotated species list includes varying details on each species caught, such as the range of dates and of numbers banded annually for usual species, all dates for those that have been caught only occasionally, recaptures, changes in capture status, capture trends, age ratios caught, recoveries at AFMO of an Ontario-banded Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Pennsylvania-banded Magnolia Warbler and a Charleston area-banded Wilson's Warbler, recoveries in New Hampshire of a Black-throated Blue Warbler and in Maryland of an Eastern Towhee banded at AFMO, Blue Jay counts, possible hybrid chickadees, irruptive years, the capture of West Virginia's first Varied Thrush and racial composition of species with readily identified races. A brief closing section summarizes a local hawk watch and lists species that occur in the vicinity of AFMO, but have not yet been caught or banded. The contributions of other banders and several non-banders are recognized in an acknowledgments section and an appendix. A second appendix listing annual reports and a Literature Cited section close the report. Copies of this booklet are available from Brooks Bird Club, Inc., Box 4077, Wheeling, WV 26003 for \$2.50/copy + \$3.50 postage & handling; West Virginia residents add 6% sales tax.) MKM

Microsatellite analysis reveals genetic monogamy among female Boreal Owls. M. E. Koopman, D. B. McDonald and G. D. Hayward. 2007. *J. Raptor Res.* 41:314-318. Rocky Mtn. Res. Stn., 240 W. Prospect, Fort Collins, CO 80526 (Based on blood samples from 109 nestlings, 29 adult females and 30 adult males collected while banding at 32 nests in Alaska and four U.S. Rocky Mountains states.) MKM

Tracking Saskatchewan nestling Turkey Vultures. C. S. Houston, G. L. Holroyd, B. Terry, M. Blom and M. J. Stoffel. 2007. *Blue Jay* 65:201-207. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 (One satellite transmitter and 44 patagial tags were attached to nestling vultures in southern Saskatchewan in 1993 and 1994, with high fledging success. Several land owners reported tagged fledged young in the general area of their nest-sites up to a month after fledging. Six patagially-tagged birds were observed at greater distances once to twice during their first to fourth years, all within Saskatchewan except one tagged in 2003 and observed repeatedly in November-December 2005 in Venezuela, 5470 km. from its natal site. The transmitter-tagged bird travelled south 1,200 km. to Mexico in ten days in 2004, then another 700 km. to Costa Rica in 23 days. It remained in Costa Rica until 13 April 2005, when it flew north, eventually reaching Nebraska on 28 May and being detected there until 30 July, when the last signal was received. Maps show sites of each detection during both southward and northward flights and the text adds more details on longer durations at sites en route.) MKM

Students band American Kestrels at Morse, SK. J. Driedger. 2007. *Blue Jay* 65:218-219. Herbert School, Box 630, Herbert, SK S0H 2A0 (Educational effort of Lorne Scott.) MKM

Where are the rosy male Pine Grosbeaks? J. Stookey and M. I. Houston. 2007. *Blue Jay* 65:220. R.R. 3, Box 21, GS 316, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3J6 (Observations by Stookey at a feeder in 2007 are compared with banding data of Houston at an urban feeder in 1969 and 1972.) MKM

First observations of an Eastern Screech-Owl, *Megascops asio*, population in an apple-producing region of southern Quebec. N. L. Richards, P. Mineau, D. M. Bird, P. Wert, J. Larivee and J. Duffe. 2006. *Can. Field-Nat.* 120:289-297. Anglia Ruskin Univ., East Rd., Cambridge CB1 1PT, U.K. (One red-phased and eight gray-phased owls were attracted by broadcast calls to mist-nets or mouse-baited bal-chatri traps, captured, measured and banded. Data are tabulated on age, weight, "keel index," and wing chord.) MKM

2007, a remarkable year for Northern Saw-whet Owl migration. D. Okines. 2008. *OFO News* 26(1):8-10. Address not indicated. {During the fall of 2007, 1518 saw-whet owls were caught in mist-nets at Prince Edward Point along the north shore of Lake Ontario near Kingston, ON, with 236 banded on 12 October, the highest one-night total anywhere in North America to date. Annual numbers are listed for each year since 2000, with 5,386 banded from 2000-2007 and 10,261 since 1975. In 2007, 70% of the saw-whets caught were hatch-year birds, and only 7% AHY. During 2007, 28 trapped saw-whets had been banded previously elsewhere in Ontario and in three U.S. states and 28 Prince Edward Point-banded birds were recaptured elsewhere. Barred, Eastern Screech and Long-eared owls and Whip-poor-wills were also captured in the mist-nets.) MKM

Juvenile Caspian Terns from Presqu'île Provincial Park observed at Hamlin Beach State Park, New York. 2008. *OFO News* 26(1):13. C. [D. V.] Weseloh. 1391 Mount Pleasant Rd., Toronto, ON M4N 2T7 (After 85 flightless juveniles were color-banded near Brighton, ON in June 2007, four were observed on nine days in August 2007 near Rochester, NY and another near New Hanover, NC in Sept. 2007.) MKM

The migration of four Alberta Peregrine Falcons in autumn 2006. G. Holroyd, H. Trefry and G. Court. 2007. *Nature Alberta* 37(2):14-17. Can. Wildl. Serv., Rm. 200, 4999-98 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6B 2X3 (Three of four adult breeding Peregrines fitted with satellite transmitters at four Alberta sites in June 2006 remained near their nests until they migrated. Movements of all four birds were tracked from Alberta to wintering areas in Belize, Mexico and Colombia [two]. Distances covered each day and precise routes are documented in the text and the migration route of each is shown on a map.) MKM

The travels of a Short-eared Owl equipped with a satellite transmitter in Canada. G. L. Holroyd and H. Trefry. 2008. *Blue Jay* 66: 28-30. Can. Wildl. Serv., Rm. 200, 4999-98 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6B 2X3 (An owl captured in a bal chatri trap near Beaverhills Lake, AB in 2006 was fitted with a transmitter which ceased to operate four days later. It was detected at an undetermined location in early March 2007, then near Grasslands Prov. Park, SK on

20 March. The transmitter was discovered in that area in May 2007 with badger-sized tooth marks on it.) MKM

An Alberta banded Tree Swallow recovered in east Texas. D. J. Stiles. 2008. *Blue Jay* 66:52. 20 Lake Wapta Rise SE, Calgary, AB T2J 2M9 (Adult male banded near Airdre, AB in May 2003, found dead near Anahuac, TX in Nov. 2003.) MKM

Two Common Raven nests near Regina. J. B. Clarke and K. A. Martin. 2008. *Blue Jay* 66:56. #3-2144 Rose St., Regina, SK S4P 2A4 (Four young were banded at a nest near Pilot Butte, SK and two at a nest near Lumsden, SK as part of the documentation of repopulation of the prairie portions of Saskatchewan by this species.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

The breeding biology of the European Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* in Brittany, France. B. Cadiou. 2001. *Atlantic Seabirds* 3:149-164. Bretagne Vivante-SEPNEB, 186 rue Anatole, France (Ages of all accessible chicks were estimated within five days on the basis of plumage when banded. Accuracy of this method of estimation was tested by comparing estimated ages of any birds recaptured with the actual number of days between encounters.) MKM

The influence of fledgling number and hatching order on return rates of Common Terns *Sterna hirundo*. T. Dittmann, J.-D. Ludwigs and P. H. Becker. 2001. *Atlantic Seabirds* 3:179-186. Inst. für Vogelforschung "Vogelwarte Helgoland," An der Vogelwarte 21, D-26386 Wilhelmshave, Germany (Of 516 chicks banded and fitted with subcutaneous transponders from 1992-1997 at a colony in Germany, 41% were encountered again at the colony by 2000. Return rates were independent of the number in the brood. Of 442 fledged, marked chicks of known hatching order, 42% were reencountered at the colony with no detectable effects of hatching order on post-fledging survival. Of 416 marked chicks for which both number of fledged siblings and hatching order were known, 44% returned to the colony as sub-adults with no detectable combined effects of number of fledged siblings or hatching order.) MKM

Frequent shallow diving by a Northern Fulmar feeding at Shetland. S. Garthe and R. W. Furness. 2001. *Waterbirds* 24:287-289. FTZ, Universtita Kiel, Hafentorn, D-25761, Busum, Germany (A data logger attached to a band on a chick-rearing fulmar showed that diving was more frequent than believed previously. Data were obtained on frequency, duration and lengths of dives, and showed that most dives were in the afternoon.) MKM

The home range and notes on a radio-tagged northeastern Siberian Northern Goshawk. R. Probst, M. Pavlicev and R. Schmid. 2007. *J. Raptor Res.* 41:336-337. Radetzkyst, 21/11, A-1030 Vienna, Austria (A nesting male and a nesting female were caught in a bow net mounted on a raft, both banded and the male fitted with a transmitter. After the radio-tagged male's clutch was predated, 103 locations were recorded in seven days, yielding information on habitat use. A table documents wing and tail lengths, masses and primary molt details of both birds.) MKM

An adult male Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) eaten by a subadult Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). R. Bosch, J. Real, A. Tinto and E. L. Zozaya. 2007. *J. Raptor Res.* 41:338. Dept. de Biol. Animal, Facultat de Biol. de la Universitat de Barcelona, Avd. Diagonal 645, 08028 Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain (After the male of one of four pairs of Bonelli's Eagles fitted with radio transmitters and tracked daily in Spain stooped on prey, its carcass was found partially eaten by a sub-adult Golden Eagle.) MKM

Note: Thanks to Gordon A. Knight for sending a copy of Dr. Hall's report on the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory.

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl



Books



BIRDS AT YOUR FEEDER: A GUIDE TO WINTER BIRDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS. By Dana Gardner and Nancy Overcott. 2003. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA. 16 pp. Laminated. \$9.95

This is another of Iowa's series of laminated guides. This one depicts 50 species on 14 panels and is devoted specifically to those birds that visit winter feeders in the Great Plains states. Species included range from Great Horned Owls and accipiters to sparrows and finches. Mr. Gardner vividly depicts each species in its distinguishable plumages and in appropriate feeder/feeding situations, and Ms. Overcott adds pertinent information, such as species size and food preferences. Although an extremely attractive guide, it's more suited for novice birders.

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RAPTORS IN YOUR POCKET: A GUIDE TO GREAT PLAINS BIRDS OF PREY. By Dana Gardner. 2006. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA. Laminated. \$9.95

This is the latest in Iowa's series of laminated guides. Mr. Gardner, in 14 panels, skillfully portrays 25 diurnal raptor species of the Great Plains (from Texas to North Dakota) in their various plumages, both perched and in flight. The accompanying text includes common and scientific names, length and wingspan measurements and the seasonal relative abundance. This guide can be used in the field in the Great Plains states as a quick identification source and would be useful to both novice and experienced birders.



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