

American Goldfinches are known for being wanderers, with females typically traveling farther south in winter than males. The distances traveled by these fascinating birds are typically shorter than what our female undertook. Another example of such an impressive journey is that of a second-year male banded in March at Guelph, ON, and was recovered eight months later in Olla, LA, also a distance of approximately 1600 km. When our bird was first reported to the Bird Banding Lab, the Lab requested verification two times to be sure the

number had been reported correctly. It is our pleasure to report that American Goldfinches may travel over 1600 km from their place of banding more often than we think.

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Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

In memoriam: James A. Slimmon, 1916-2010. C.S. Houston. 2011. *Blue Jay* 69:46-47. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 (Brief biography of prominent naturalist, whose many contributions to Saskatoon and general Saskatchewan conservation and natural history included banding, notably of 4357 Yellow-headed and 2738 Red-winged blackbirds.) MKM

Hardy (Ehrhard) Pletz—the bird of prey man. L. Carbyn. 2010. *Parkland Naturalist* autumn-winter 2010:12. c/o Edmonton Nature Club, Box 1111, Edmonton, AB T5J 2M1 (Brief biography of Edmonton, Alberta, area naturalist, whose many contributions include banding of about 90,000 birds, especially raptors, initially under Cam Finlay's permit, then his own.) MKM

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Aspects of the ecology of the Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos* in the South Australian arid zone. I.D. Falkenberg. 2011 *Corella* 35:23-28. Dept. Environ. & Nat. Resources, Kingston St., Burra, South Australia 5147, Australia (Two chicks were banded in 1984 at one of four nests studied for several years. Appropriate band size, avoiding banding in hot weather, importance of not banding very small young or young close to fledging and importance of not banding raptors in precariously located nests are all discussed.) MKM

Playback re-survey and demographic modelling indicate a substantial increase in breeding European Storm-Petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* at the largest UK colony, Mousa, Shetland. M. Bolton, J.G. Brown, H. Moncrieff, N. Ratcliff and J.D. Okill. 2010. *Seabird* 23:14-24. (Assumptions on survival rates of different age groups, on age of first breeding and on response rates to taped calls in different habitats, based on studies of Henderson Petrels were tested on the basis of band/recapture rates of more intensively studied parts of the colony.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

No evidence of sex-specific differences in choice or size of fish caught for chicks or self-feeding among Common Guillemots *Uria aalge*. R.T. Barrett, J. Bugge and T. Pedersen. 2010. *Seabird* 23:7-13. Dept. Nat. Sci., Tromsø Univ. Mus., NO-9037 Tromsø, Norway. (Mass and wing lengths, culmens, gonys and heads + bills of 39 male and 53 female Common Murres breeding at a colony in Norway showed a slight, consistent difference between gender in mass, bill size and head size.) MKM

Interspecific mate choice and hybridism in the Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*. J.K. Finley and S. Huot. 2010. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 124:28-31. 10232 Summerset Pl., Sidney, BC V8L 4X2 (Detailed description and photograph of male hybrid Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye at

Esquimalt Lagoon, Victoria, BC, and partial review of ten other records of apparent Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye and six Bufflehead x Hooded Merganser hybrids in three Canadian provinces and five U.S. states.) MKM

Unusual coloration of a Hairy Woodpecker. S.R. Helm, R. Stemmer and H. Van Grouw. 2011. *Northwestern Naturalist* 92:76-78 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Box 2946, (CENWP-PM-E), Portland, OR 97208 (Detailed description of male with white in usual white parts of plumage and red nuchal patch, but brownish feathers replacing black ones in Tilamook County, OR. Unspotted wings were similar to those of a nearby pair and consistent with those of *Picoides villosus harrissi*, the race typical of the area.) MKM

Variaciones morfométricas y dieta de la Paloma Rabiche (*Zenaida macroura*) en dos localidades del occidente de Cuba. J. L. Ponce de Leon, M. Acosta and E. Garcia. 2010 *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology* 23:44-49. Univ. de la Habana, Facultad de Biol., Calle 25 entre J e I, Vedado, Habana, Cuba (Mass and measurements of total length, wing length, tarsal length and bill length, width and depth are summarized for 39-40 male and 25-27 female Mourning Doves measured in two natural populations in western Cuba. Body weights and total lengths of males averaged larger than those of females.) MKM

Post-mortem examination of Great Northern Divers *Gavia immer* killed in the *Prestige* oil spill, Galicia, Spain, 2002/03. C. J. Camphuysen, R. Bao, M. Fortin, C. S. Roselaar and M. Huebeck. 2010. *Seabird* 23:53-65. Royal Netherlands Inst. for Sea Research, MEE-Seabirds and Marine Mammals Group, Box 59, 1790 AB Den Burg, Texel, The Netherlands (Data on bill lengths from tip to feathers and from tip to nostril, bill depths at base and gonys, tarsal lengths and tail lengths of Common Loons are tabulated in total and by juvenile males and juvenile females. Comparisons with data from Canada and northern Europe and gunshot in some specimens suggested that most of the birds killed bred in Greenland and/or Iceland, but other areas were not ruled out.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING

Tracking Tundra Swans for BC Nature. A. Burger. 2011. *BC Nature* 49(1):11. Biol. Dept., Univ. of Victoria, Victoria, BC V8W 3N5 (Blue neck bands on several swans observed on the Guichon Flats near Nicola, BC, in Nov 2010 had been banded in Jul 2010 near King Salmon, AK. Other swans neck-banded in Alaska were seen in BC's Okanagan Valley and near Chilliwack in the Fraser Valley.) MKM

Eyes on IBAs Beaverhill Lake IBA Site number 001. L. Priestley and C. Priestley. 2011. *Nature Alberta* 40(4):10-13. c/o Nature Alberta, 11759 Groat Rd., Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6 (Brief account of Canada's first designated Important Bird Area, including a brief account of the work of Alberta's Beaverhill Bird Observatory.) MKM

Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2009. M. H. Cranford. 2010. *Ontario Birds* 28:58-86. 2062437 Hurontario St., Mississauga, ON L5A 2G4 (Discussion of 152 records of extralimital birds reported in Ontario, with 135 accepted as valid, adding Roseate Spoonbill and Black-tailed Gull to the Ontario list, but deleting MacGillivray's Warbler for a current total of 483 recognized as having occurred in Ontario. Banding is not mentioned in the documentation of any of the reported species, but photos of hand-held Cassin's Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak at Long Point and the Pink-sided race of Dark-eyed Junco and Chestnut-collared Longspur at Thunder Cape suggest that these species were captured during banding operations at these observatories.) MKM

Watch out for Turkey Vultures in 2011. C.S. Houston. 2011. *Nature Views* 166:12. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 (By the ninth year of a patagial tagging program in Saskatchewan, green alphanumeric tags had been applied to the right wings of 623 nestlings.) MKM

Resource selection of Greater Prairie-Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse broods in central South Dakota. M.A. Norton, K.C. Jensen, A.P. Leif, T.R. Kirschenmann and G.A. Wolbrink. 2010. *Prairie Naturalist* 42:100-108. Dept. Wildl.

& Fish. Sci., South Dakota State Univ., Brookings, SD 57007 (Relative use of several habitat types by 18 prairie-chicken and 17 Sharp-tailed Grouse were studied by radio-tagging nesting hens and chicks. Hens were captured in walk-in traps on display grounds or bow nets on nests. Broods were captured at night. Habitat use and home range of each brood were documented by checking radio-marked birds three times per week.)

Greater Snow Geese in eastern Ontario. B. Morin and J. Hughes. 2010. *Ontario Birds* 28:94-102. 661 Champlain Dr., Cornwall, ON K6H 6H9 (Since 580 Greater Snow Geese first appeared in spring migration in southeastern Ontario in 1986, annual numbers have increased to 70,000-100,000, mostly within 70 km of the Ontario-Quebec border. Less than 2% of these are blue morph, compared with about 50% in flocks of Lesser Snow Geese. Four color-marked birds observed in 2007 and two in 2008 had been banded on Bylot Is., NU. Two others observed in 2007 had been banded at Montmagny, QC.) MKM

2011 Hummingbird banding in Saskatchewan. D. Cubie. 2011. *Nature Views* 166:12. c/o Nature Saskatchewan, Rm. 206, 1860 Lorne St., Regina, SK S4P 2L7 (After studying and banding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds overwintering in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida since 2004, Cubie banded 153 in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in summer 2010, with plans to band more there in 2011.) MKM

Trumpeter Swans in Ontario 2008-2009. H. Lumsden. 2010. *Ontario Birds* 28:103-108. 144 Hillview Rd., Aurora, ON L4G 2M5 (Trumpeter Swans have continued to increase in Ontario since the cessation of a 1982-2006 re-introduction program. During 2008-2009, 388 wing tags were reported by the public, with 421 the estimated provincial marked total and 1,522 the population total by Sep 2009. In 2008-2009, 129 swans were captured and newly banded. Ontario-banded Trumpeters have been reported during winter in 73 locations in eight U.S. states. Wintering areas of individual birds vary among years, with several U.S.-wintering birds of one year remaining in

Ontario in other years, including the two birds documented to have wintered the farthest south, in North Carolina and Tennessee.) MKM

Barn Swallow populations in Wellington County, 2008-2010. A. Salvadori, M. Cadman, K. Homer and L. Rae. 2011. *Ontario Birds* 29:2-12. 17 Colborn St., Guelph, ON N1G 2M4 (Population trends were monitored at 15 sites with weekly visits during the nesting season. Young were banded at four-10 days old, with only one banding session per brood to minimize disturbance effects. As predation was minimal, number of young banded provided an estimate of number fledged. Eight to 255 young were banded per site per year, with combined totals of 1,178 in 2008, 1,184 in 2009 and 1,281 in 2010, but numbers fledged at each site varying considerably among years.) MKM

Massachusetts-banded Ring-billed Gulls breeding in Ontario and the Great Lakes. D.V.C. Weseloh and D. Clark. 2011. *Ontario Birds* 29:13-24. Can. Wildl. Serv., Environ. Canada, 4905 Dufferin St., Toronto, ON M3H 5T4 (From Mar 2008 to Mar 2010, 763 Ring-billed Gulls rocket-netted in Massachusetts were marked with colorful patagial tags, with re-sightings of 461 [60.4%] one to 77 times by mid-Oct 2010. Thirteen of these birds were re-sighted at or near colonies along the Ontario portion of the St. Lawrence River or in Lakes Erie, Huron or Ontario, with 65 sightings of these birds to date. Re-sightings have included observations back in the wintering areas and have provided data on nest-site and wintering-site fidelity and migration routes. Details of banding dates, number of re-sightings [one to 17 times] and locations are summarized in a table and details of the Ontario sightings summarized in the text. One bird was re-sighted in Georgia after being banded in Massachusetts, then found breeding on Little Galloo Is., Lake Ontario, less than two months later.) MKM

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) migratory route fidelity and urban fatality. A Prince. 2010. *Meadowlark* 19:124-125. Illinois Ornithol. Soc., Box 931, Lake Forest, IL 60045 (At 0640 on 17 Apr 2008, a Brown Creeper was found injured in

Chicago. The injury was likely from a window collision. The bird was taken by a member of Chicago Bird Collision Monitor to Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn, IL, where it was treated, banded and released the same day. At 0700 on 17 Apr 2009, exactly one year later, the same bird was found dead only two blocks away from where it was rescued the previous year. The bird was salvaged and is now a specimen in the Field Museum.) GLG

Marking loons, making progress. W. Piper, J. Mager and C. Walcott. 2011. *American Scientist* 99:220-227. Dept. Biol. Sci., Chapman Univ., 1 University Dr., Orange, CA 92866 (Striking discoveries about the social behavior and communication of Common Loons were revealed by the low-tech approach of individually marking study animals. The authors "...made great strides in understanding how loons gain and defend breeding territories....," finding that: [1] territorial take-over is common, [2] among males, only those in prime condition achieve take-overs, [3] males control where the nest is placed in a breeding attempt, thus [4] acquiring unique familiarity with their territories and increasing their value to the males. Vocal analysis of marked males' calls showed that yodels betray the yodeler's size and aggressive motivation and revealed a curious alteration of yodels by males that have just taken possession of a new territory.) WDL

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

First recovery of a banded Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* for Australia. Anonymous. 2011. *ABSA [Australian Bird Study Association] Newsletter* 102:4. c/o S. Boddington, Box A313, Sydney S., NSW 1235, Australia) (An adult banded at Skokholm Is., Wales, as an adult in Sep 1960 was recovered in Nov 1961 16,208 km away at Venus Bay, South Australia. A follow-up note by D. Purchase in *ABSA Newsletter* 103:4, 2011 points out that this record was published by R. Spencer in *British Birds* 55:86-87, 1962, and was included in at least four major Australian avifaunal volumes between 1971 and 1990.) MKM

2007 Arctic breeding success, based on juvenile ratios of Northern Hemisphere waders which spend the non-breeding season in Australia. C. Minton, R. Jessop and C. Hassell. 2008. *Arctic Birds* 10:53-58.165 Dalgetty Rd., Beaumaris, Victoria 3193, Australia (Percentages of young birds of several shorebird species caught in mist-nets and by cannon nets in southwest and northwest Australia in the winter of 2007-2008 indicated poor nesting success in the Arctic by Red-necked Stints wintering in southeast Australia, but average breeding success by those wintering in northwest Australia. Most other shorebird species captured in sufficient numbers to assess appeared to have had average to very good breeding success, except that Common Greenshanks captured in northwest Australia appeared to have had very poor nesting success [in areas south of the Arctic]. Data for several species have been collected since the early 1990s, some for 30 years, providing long-term breeding success estimates for species that breed in wide-spread remote areas.) MKM

Avifaunal surveys in La Visite National Park — last vestiges on montane broadleaf forest in eastern Haiti. C.C. Rimmer, J.E. Goetz, E. Garrido Gomez, J.L. Brocca, P. Bayard and J. Vilmond Hilaire. 2010. *Journal of Caribbean Ornithology* 23:31-43. Vermont Cent. for Ecological Studies, Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055 (Mist-netting was included in surveys of two sites in Jan-Feb 2005, with 182 mist-net captures of 21 species. Seven captured Bicknell's Thrushes confirmed their occurrence at both sites and a Swainson's Warbler was added to the local avifauna when one was captured. A table lists the numbers of each species captured and counted on point counts at each site.) MKM

Ythan Sandwich Terns. E. Weston. 2011. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 116:3-4. c/o British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU, England (Over 100 bands were recovered from over 6000 Sandwich Tern chicks banded in the Ythan Estuary of Scotland, primarily in western Africa, with a few in U.K. and other European countries. Reading bands by telescope in

the colony indicate that Sandwich Terns breeding there included birds that had hatched both locally and at other European colonies. Catches were increased by using mist-nets, traps and lures at night, starting in 2009. Color bands increased recovery rates and added France to recovery sites. Recoveries in Scotland of birds banded elsewhere included from other U.K. sites, as well as from Belgium, Denmark and Holland.) MKM

Some aspects of the biology of the Black Falcon *Falco subniger*. S.J.S. Debus and J. Olsen. *Corella* 35:29-36. Div. of Zool., Univ. New England, Armidale, New South Wales 2351, Australia (Banding and museum data were combined with field research to compile life history knowledge on this poorly known species. Knowledge on plumage and masses to date are reviewed, with photographs. The only banded nestling recovered to date was found 346 km from the nest-site 11 yr 7 mo after

being banded. Data on three other banding recoveries, all of birds recovered alive about a year after banding, are also presented.) MKM

Breeding season news Orkney 2010. E. Meek. 2011. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 116:8-11. c/o Seabird Group, 10 Broomfield Park, Portlethen, AB12 4XT, UK. (A review of nesting success and failures of several seabird species on numerous Orkney Islands includes banding of 46 European Herring Gull chicks on Burray Ness in 2009 and 52 in 2010 and of 35 Great Black-backed Gulls on Hunda in 2010.) MKM

Note: We welcome Glenn L. Gabanski as our new abstractor for contributions published in *Meadowlark*

GLG = Glenn L. Gabanski

WDS = W.D. "Bill" Laughman

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

Books

MONITORING AVIAN PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVORSHIP (MAPS) IN MOUNT REVELSTOKE, BANFF, WATERTON LAKES AND JASPER NATIONAL PARKS (1993-2006). By C. M. Smith, D. R. Kaschube, B. Sheperd and J. Woods. 2008. Parks Canada unpublished technical report. Waterton Lakes National Park, Waterton Park, Alberta. vii + 59 pp.

This report outlines the purposes and techniques of the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) project run by the Bird Populations Institute and provides MAPS data from four Canadian mountain National Parks [three in Alberta and one in British Columbia] on survival and population trends of several bird species that breed in these parks, with emphasis on the validity of these data in comparison with data from other types of studies and how they can help assist in conservation efforts in the parks.

The report begins with a detailed two-page executive summary that outlines the objectives of the project, its history to date in the four parks, highlights of findings to date and an assessment of what actions are needed to maximize the accuracy and usefulness of future data. A brief

acknowledgement section lists data collectors at each site, identifies funders and other supporters and highlights the role of Stefan Jungkind as lead bander and banding trainer for three years. An introduction then outlines the history of monitoring landbird populations in Canadian mountain national parks, outlines the history and objectives of MAPS and lists 12 taxa highlighted in this report (11 species and one species pair ["Traill's" Flycatcher when Alder could not be distinguished from Willow in the hand]). A methods section consists of brief descriptions of the four study sites and their operation, with a map showing their locations and one photograph of each, and brief accounts of data collection, data entry with a vigorous verification process, data analysis based on breeding/summer residency status, development of adult population indices and analysis of productivity, method of analysing trends in population size and productivity over several years and from year to year and mark-release-recapture methods of analysing survivorship at each station over several years and at the three longest-running stations combined.

Trends for 14 species for which the authors considered that enough data have been collected to