

far cry from the normal model that we have of a bird migrating between fixed wintering and breeding areas.

### Literature Cited

Hughes, J.M. 1999. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), the Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/418>

Sechrist, J. D., E.H. Paxton, D.D. Ahlers, R.H. Doster, and V.M. Ryan. 2012. One year of migration data for a Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo. *Western Birds* 43:2-11.

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## Recent Literature

### BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

#### Obituaries Mitchell Durno Murray (1925-2009).

A. Leishman. 2009. *Corella* 33:45-46 & G. Smith. 2009. *Corella* 33:46. 4/101 Centaur St., Revesby Heights, NSW 2212, Australia (Two brief biographies of British-born Australian veterinarian, who was one of Australia's first licensed banders, banding albatrosses, petrels, giant-petrels, gulls, terns and monarchs and also banded in Antarctica. He published numerous papers on several birds, was the driving force behind the *Seabird Islands* series of *Australian Bird Bander* and *Corella*, a participant on the boards of several ornithological organizations and a recipient of significant awards.) MKM

### EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

#### Preening behaviour of adult Gyrfalcons tagged with backpack transmitters.

T.L. Booms, P.F. Schempf and M.R. Fuller. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:264-267. Alaska Dept. Fish & Game, Wildl. Diversity Program, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99701 (After females at two nests in Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, AK, were captured with noose carpets and fitted with radio-transmitters, the time that they spent preening, feeding, sleeping and in other activities was documented in comparison with their mates, neither of which carried transmitters. Both females spent a greater proportion of time preening than their untagged males and one female that was observed both before and after being fitted with transmitters increased the amount of time preening. The females also ceased incubating for awhile after being fitted with transmitters, one for at least ten days.) MKM

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

#### Footprinting of raptors for identification: a follow-up from 1982 to 2010.

G. Tovar-Lopez, N. P. Finch and E.H. Stauber. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:194-195. Dept. of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, Washington State Univ., Pullman, WA 99163-6610 (An examination of the scale pattern on the foot of one of 25 Red-tailed Hawks included in a 1984 study of the uniqueness of scale patterns on the feet of Red-tailed Hawks and Peregrine Falcons [E.H. Stauber. 1984. *Journal of Raptor Research* 18:67-71] indicated that most scales examined remained the same 28 years later, while the change on the others was too slight to affect the usefulness in foot pattern in identifying individuals.) MKM

#### Winter puffins wanted.

M. Harris. 2011. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 118:10-11. Pyttenkerrie Cottage, Glassel, Banchory AB31 4DD, United Kingdom (Although primary molt in most Atlantic Puffins was believed to occur primarily in winter, many in Shetland, Orkney and Faeroe islands have recently been found flightless in October. Further study is needed to determine whether the timing of flightlessness is more variable than believed previously or has changed recently. Photographs of two dead puffins banded in 1988 and 2003 and shot in the Faeroes in Oct 2010 are included.) MKM

#### Yellow-nosed Albatross: new to Ontario.

P.R. Martin and B.M. Di Labio. 2011. *Ontario Birds* 29:58-79. Dept. of Biol., Queen's Univ., Kingston, ON K7L 3N6 (Detailed description, with photographs, of adult "Atlantic" Yellow-nosed Albatross

on beach of Wolfe Is., ON, and in subsequent rehabilitation captivity in comparison with "Indian" subspecies and other albatross species. A review of other North American records is included, with all known records summarized in a table.) MKM

**Nikon photo quiz.** W. D'Anna. 2011. *OFO [Ontario Field Ornithologists] News* 29(3): 15-16. c/o Box 116, Stn. F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2L4 (Review of features distinguishing Pine Siskin from other finches, especially female House Finch.) MKM

#### **NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING**

**First occurrence and confirmed breeding of Bewick's Wren in the Creston Valley, British Columbia.** L.M. Van Damme. 2009. *Wildlife Afield* 6:151-152. 619 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Creston, BC V0B 1G5 (A fledgling banded by Doug Brown at Vaseaux Lake in the Okanagan Valley on 21 Oct 2008 provides a late breeding record for BC.) MKM

**Migrant Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima*, collisions with power transmission lines and shortwave communication towers on the Tantramar Marsh in southeastern New Brunswick.** C.M. MacKinnon and A.C. Kennedy. 2011. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 125:41-46. (Of 85 eiders found dead, injured, or grounded near power lines and towers in southeastern New Brunswick between 1971 and 2009, one found with a broken wing in Oct 2009 had been banded as an HY male in Aug 2007 on Wolf Is., 76 km northeast of Cartwright, Labrador.) MKM

**Confirmed breeding record of Eastern Bluebird near Beaverhill Lake, Alberta.** K. Calon and L. Priestley. 2011. *Blue Jay* 69:110-112. Beaverhill Bird Observ., Box 1418, Edmonton, AB T5J 2N5 (Four young and the female were banded as part of the documentation of an extralimital nesting of a pair of Eastern Bluebirds in a nestbox trail.) MKM

**Colour-banded Caspian Tern sighted at Williams Lake, British Columbia.** K. Andrews. 2009. *Wildlife Afield* 6:166-167. 1385 Borland Rd., Williams Lake, BC V2G 5K5 (During a period of more-than-usual occurrences of Caspian Terns in the Cariboo region of BC, a color-banded adult at

Williams Lake in Jul 2009 had been banded as a chick in Jul 2004 on an island in the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon.) MKM

**Breeding home ranges of migratory Turkey Vultures near their northern limit.** C.S. Houston, P.D. McLoughlin, J.T. Mandel, M.J. Bechard, M.J. Stoffel, D.R. Barber, and K.L. Bildstein. 2011. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 123:472-478. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 (Home ranges of Turkey Vultures at two aspen parkland and two boreal forest sites in Saskatchewan were estimated from data obtained through Global Position System satellites from 2005-2009. Breeding ranges and fixed-kernel home ranges were calculated, with both the smallest and largest summer ranges yet reported for this species. Home ranges decreased in size from 2005-2009. Adults used all-night perches 0.25 to 38 km from their nests, and traveled considerable distances to obtain food for their young. Data are included on incubation attentiveness of one male and one female and on brooding attentiveness of one female. The transmitters also provided data on heights and timing of soaring flights.) MKM

**Falcon watch 2007 final report.** E. Ticknor. 2007. *Trail & Landscape* 41:216-219. c/o Ottawa Field-Nat. Club, Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, ON K1Z 1A2 (One fledged chick was banded as part of the documentation of nesting success in the 2007 Ottawa, ON, area Peregrine Falcon release project.) MKM

**Bird highlights from the 50k 2007: the first six months.** C. Lewis. 2007. *Trail & Landscape* 41:221-227. c/o Ottawa Field-Nat. Club, Box 35069, Westgate, ON K1Z 1A2 (An out-of-range radio-tagged Whooping Crane in Bells Corner, near Ottawa, ON on 16 May 2007 was a four-year-old female from Wisconsin that had migrated to Florida in 2003, and flown north to Michigan and Point Pelee, Ontario twice and to New York. She was seen near Fenaghvale, ON, two days before her Ottawa visit and New York thereafter until at least 26 Jun. A slightly out-of-regular-range Blue-winged Warbler was banded at Innis Point Bird Observatory in the Ottawa area, seen for several subsequent days and recaptured once.) MKM

**Nest site characteristics of Hooded Warblers at the northern edge of their breeding range.** B. J. Walters and E. Nol. 2011. *Ontario Birds* 29:88-103. Environ. & Life Sci. Graduate Program, Trent Univ., Peterborough, ON K9J 7B8 (Color-banding males in 2007 showed that two nests in the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, ON, with nestlings being attended by the same male. After banding several fledglings and adults in 2007, only one banded male was re-encountered in 2009. In 2008, a banded male mated with his own female offspring of 2007, suggesting that finding mates remained difficult at this early stage of northward range expansion.) MKM

**Last Mountain Bird Observatory – spring 2010.** A.R. Smith. 2010. *Nature Views* 163:10. 318-113th St. W., Saskatoon, SK S7N 2L2 (During the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive spring of banding at Last Mountain Lake, SK, 544 birds of 51 species were banded and 39 previously banded birds of 11 species returned after more than one year, including a Brown Thrasher at least seven years old on recapture. Purple Martin and Nelson's Sparrow were added to the all-time station capture list and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was the first spring capture.) MKM

**Wing-tagged Turkey Vultures that might be seen in Alberta.** R.W. Nelson. 2009. *Parkland Naturalist* summer 2009:14. 4218-63 St., Camrose, AB T4V 2W2 (Summary of wing tags applied to 20 nestlings at 11 nests in Alberta starting in 2008, over 300 in Saskatchewan from 2003 to 2009, and over 300 in Venezuela during the winters of 2006-2007 and 2008-2009. One of the Alberta birds collided with a vehicle, while both Alberta-and Saskatchewan-tagged birds have been seen in Venezuela, with Saskatchewan-tagged birds also turning up in Alberta and several U.S. states.) MKM

**Home ranges and spatial organization of Western Screech-Owls in southern British Columbia.** H. Davis and R.D. Weir. 2010. *Northwestern Naturalist* 91:157-164. Artemis Wildl. Consultants, 4515 Hillar Rd., Armstrong, BC V0E 1B4 (Data from 11 adult owls attracted between Jul 2005 and Jan 2008 by call playbacks and decoys to mist-nets, captured in and marked with radio-tags helped estimate season and year-round home ranges, with no substantial difference between genders, but smaller home ranges during the breeding season than

outside the breeding season. Home ranges of pairs overlapped substantially during the breeding season, minimal outside the breeding season, whereas those of neighboring pairs did not overlap. Habitat frequented by the owls was primarily riparian.) MKM

**Ecology of the Southeastern American Kestrel.** J.L. Brown. 2011. PhD. Thesis, Univ. of Nevada, Reno, NV. 192 pp. abstracted in *Raptor Research Foundation Wingspan* 20(4):16-17. c/o Box 6125, 322 Percival Hall, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV 26506-6125 (Capture-recapture data on marked chicks in Florida indicated higher long-term survival rates and reproductive success in broods provided with supplemental feeding than in control broods. Capture-recapture data of marked birds were also used to compare breeding performance of birds nesting in nest boxes with those nesting in natural cavities.) MKM

**Last Mountain Bird Observatory–fall 2011 banding summary.** A.R. Smith 2011. *Nature Views* 168:5. 318-113<sup>th</sup> St. W, Saskatoon, SK S7N 2L2 (During the 22<sup>nd</sup> fall netting season at Last Mountain Lake Bird Observatory, SK, 74 species were captured, of which 73 were banded, slightly over the ten-year average of 72 species. An ASY male Common Yellowthroat captured in May 2010 provided the first return of that species. Although bandings of most warbler species were down, 166 Orange-crowned Warblers were considerably higher than their previous 131 high. Six Nelson's Sparrows brought the species total for the station to 112 species, and other extralimital bandings included one Winter Wren and two Black-throated Blue Warblers. The banding of 16 Orchard Orioles in three families demonstrates the continued breeding range expansion of a species formally extralimital in the prairie provinces.) MKM

**Banded Minnesota chickadee sets new longevity record.** M.R. North. 2011. *Loon* 83:192-193. 13261 – 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. SW, Pillager, MN 56472 (Black-capped Chickadee 2280-26903 banded on 5 May 2002 as ASY in Cass County, MN was recaptured on 9 and 22 Dec 2011 at age 11 yr 6 mo. Another chickadee 2200-84757 banded on 8 Aug 2001 was recovered on 20 Dec 2010, almost as old.) PL

## NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

**2008 breeding season news Skomer Island.** J. Milborrow, T. Cole and D. Boyle. 2009. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 111:11-12. c/o BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU, England (Only 51 of approximately 300 large fledgling Lesser Black-backed Gulls banded on the Scottish island of Skomer could be relocated in spite of "significant" searches, indicating poor breeding success.)MKM

**Seabird Islands No. 3/1. Belowla Island, New South Wales.** N. Carlisle. 2011. *Corella* 35:82-84. Office of Environ. & Heritage, Box 1967, Hurstville BC, New South Wales 1481, Australia (No recoveries have been reported to date from 11 adult and 19 nestling White-faced Storm-Petrels banded on Belowla Island in 1972.) MKM

**Time portioning and substrate use of Red-backed Fairy-Wrens *Malurus melanocephalus*.** S. A. Murphy, J. Heathcote, S. Garcia and S.M. Legge. 2009. *Corella* 33:39-42. School for Environ. Res., Charles Darwin Univ., Darwin NT 0909, Australia (Observations of 29 color-banded fairy-wrens in Western Australia showed no difference between sexes during the dry season in amounts of times foraging, preening/loafing and being vigilant, with 60% of foraging during cooler parts of the day and primarily in grass, vigilance most common in *Acacia* and preening/loafing in thorny shrub habitat.) MKM

**Isle of May 2011.** M. Newell, M. Harris, S. Burthe, S. Wanless, and F. Daunt. 2011. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 118:12. Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Edinburgh, Scotland (The return rates of color-banded Shags, Common Murres, Razorbills, Atlantic Puffins, and Black-legged Kittiwakes were all above their long-term averages.)MKM

**End of two Whimbrels.** R. John. 2011. *OFO [Ontario Field Ornithologists'] News* 29(3):5. 2193 Emard Crescent, Ottawa, ON K1J 6K5 (Two Whimbrels fitted with geolocators in the Ontario portion of the Hudson Bay lowlands were shot in Guadeloupe, where they landed when apparently

diverted by a tropical storm instead of flying directly to Suriname from Virginia, a more regular route. These incidents highlight the fact that unregulated shorebird shooting still takes place on three French Caribbean islands.)MKM

**The distribution of the Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*).** W.R.P. Bourne. 2011. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 117:9-10. Ardgath, Station Rd., Dufftown by Keith AB55 4AK, UK. (Data from nine of 12 data-loggers attached to 12 petrels on Nonsuch Island, Bermuda, revealed that they travel throughout the North Atlantic and documented the relative amounts of time they spend in the waters off the Azores, Bermuda, Canada, the Canary Islands, Ireland, Portugal, and Spain. An apparent rich feeding area west of the Azores revealed by the data suggests that further research is merited.)MKM

**Note:** Thanks to C. Stuart Houston for a reprint abstracted in this compilation.

PL = Peter Lowther

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl



Turkey Vulture  
by George West