Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Profile [:] Remembering Dr. Martin Edwards. J. Hassell. 2012. *Ontario Nature* 52(2):17. c/o Ontario Nature, Suite 612, 214 King St. W., Toronto, ON M5H 3S6 (Brief biography of Kingston, ON, physics professor, whose life list of bird species was the sixth highest in the world at the time of his death at the age of 85 on a birding trip to Brazil. He served as President of the Kingston Field Naturalists, Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Canadian Nature Federation and in numerous other positions on several local, provincial, national and international naturalist and conservation organizations. Although not mentioned in the tribute, he was also involved in the banding projects of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, co-authoring papers on their research in scientific journals.)MKM

The Kingston Field Naturalists: a brief history of birding in the Kingston area. M.A. Conboy. 2012. *OFO [*Ontario Field Ornithologists] *News* 30(2):6-7. c/o Ont. Field Ornithologists, Box 116, Stn. F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2L4 (Brief summary, including establishment of Prince Edward Bird Observatory and banding of Northern Saw-whet Owls and Chimney Swifts.) MKM

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

How safe is mist netting? Evaluating the risk of injury and mortality to birds. E.N. Spotswood, K.R. Goodman, J. Carlisle, R.L. Cormier, D.L. Humple, J. Rousseau, S.L. Guers and G.G. Barton. 2012. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 3:29-38. Dept. of Environ. Sci., Policy & Manage., 137 Mumford Hall, Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-3114 (Rates of mortality and injury of birds in mist-nets were quantified at 22 bird observatories and banding organizations in North America and data from five of these groups were used to evaluate the relationships between risk or type of incident and age, body mass, frequency of capture, mesh size, month, sex and time of day. In total, data from 4,782 incidents from 620,997 captures were reported from which 345,752 captures were analyzed further, with data on 188 species of 31 families providing sufficient sample sizes for detailed comparisons. Recapture histories were also compared between birds of 16 species that had been injured and those of the same species that had not. Overall injury rates were low, averaging 0.59%, with mortality averaging 0.23%. The combined total percentage of injuries and mortalities was less than 1%, and less than injuries and mortalities in some trapping studies. Six bird species and ten types of mammals were listed as documented predators of birds in mist-nets. Relative rates of 15 types of injury and 15 sources of mortality are graphed. Birds captured frequently were at less risk, but risk increased with body mass. Larger birds were at greater risk of being preyed upon in nets and were more likely to experience broken or injured legs, internal bleeding and cuts. Smaller birds are more susceptible to stress, wing strain and entanglement injuries. However, some species were more susceptible to risk generally than others and species differed in susceptibility to different stresses, with Anna's Hummingbirds and Spotted Towhees more prone to stress, whereas American Robins and Western Tanagers more often exhibited wing strain. Injuries apparently did not generally increase mortality over time. Body mass, capture numbers and time of day appeared more influential than other factors tested. Several possible mitigating factors are suggested in the discussion, providing plenty of ideas for further research.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Morphometric variation in Flammulated Owls captured during autumn migration in the western United States. J.P. Smith, J.P. DeLong, L.L. Leppert, S.L. Stock, G.S. Kaltenecker and J.D. Carlisle. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:109-120. H.T. Harvey & Assoc., 983 University Ave., Building D, Los Gatos, CA 95032 (Most measurements from Flammulated Owls at autumn migration sites in ID, NE and NM showed a southeast to northwest cline. Varying sample sizes by sample site and sex are tabulated for masses, wing chords, exposed culmen lengths, hallux

lengths, tarsus lengths and standard tail lengths. Factorial two-way ANOVA analysis of the data showed significant sex-specific differences in wing chord, exposed culmen length and hallux length, with a consistent pattern of site-specific differences for most measurements.) MKM

"Vega" Herring Gull in Algoma District: a new taxon for Ontario. K. Zufelt. 2012. *Ontario Birds* 50:13-25. 1001 Third Line E., Sault Ste. Marie, ON (Detailed description, with photographs, of gull at Sioux Ste. Marie, ON, in comparison with hundreds of American Herring Gulls present at the same time. Comparisons described between birds on site of size, structure, "bare parts" and stages of molt of various plumage features and between this bird and other dark-mantled species, hybrids and intergrades support its identification as an adult Vega Gull in active definitive pre-basic molt, the third confirmed North American record, currently officially recognized as a race in North America, but considered a full species by some gull experts). MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Differential migration in five species of raptors in central coastal California. J.M. Hull, S. Pitzer, A.M. Fish, H.B. Ernest and A.C. Hull. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:50-56. Golden Gate Raptor Observatory., Building 1064, Ft. Cronkhite, Sausalito, CA 94965 (Data from 17,144 raptors of three hawk and two falcon species trapped during migration through the Marin Headland of central coastal California were analyzed for possible age or gender difference in patterns of movement. Females moved significantly earlier than males in Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks, hatch-year American Kestrels, hatch-year Merlins and hatch-year Red-shouldered Hawks. Timing of migration did not differ between AHY male and female American Kestrels or between ages. Juveniles preceded adults in Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. Sample sizes of Merlins and adult Red-shouldered Hawks were too low to permit comparisons between timing of migration of age classes. Raptors banded in the Marin Headlands have been encountered subsequently south from Baja California, north to British Columbia, west to the Farallon Islands and east to Idaho.) MKM

Lesser Snow Goose update. K. Fry. 2012. *Marshnotes* spring 2012:5. B.C. Waterfowl Soc., 5191 Robertson Rd., Delta, BC V4K 3N2.(After the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife captured and neck-banded 200 Snow Geese in the Skagit Wilidlife Area in March 2012, they began to be identified on Westham Is., BC, from 24 Mar onwards.) MKM

Snow Buntings: a flagship species for Arctic songbird research in Canada. C. Macdonald and O.P. Love. 2012. *BirdWatch Canada* 59:8-9. Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (Historical band recovery data and recoveries of buntings banded in a more recent Canadian Snow Bunting Network indicate that Snow Buntings wintering in southern Ontario migrate east along the St. Lawrence River to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, then north along the Labrador coast to western Greenland breeding sites. An ON-banded bird was also recovered near Rimouski, QC. Data from geolocators attached to buntings breeding on East Bay Is., NU, in 2011 indicate that they winter in the prairie provinces after travelling south for a month along the western shore of Hudson Bay. Banding data also indicate differential wintering areas by gender, with flocks of 90-95% males wintering around Ottawa, ON, and Rimouski, QC, and flocks of mostly females near Windsor, ON.) MKM

Last Mountain Bird Observatory –spring 2012. A.R. Smith. 2012. *Nature Views* 171:4. Box 174, Avonlea, SK S0H 0C0. (During its 22nd consecutive year of spring coverage, LMBO captured 616 new birds of 53 species and recaptured 52 birds of 12 species after one or more year(s). A Common Grackle banded as AHY in 2003 was at least 9 yr, 10 mo old on recapture.) MKM

Peregrine Falcons on coastal beaches of Washington: fifteen years of banding and surveys. D.E. Varland, J.B. Buchanan, T.L. Fleming, M.K. Kenney and T.M. Loughlin. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:57-74. Coastal Raptors, 90 Westview Dr., Hoquiam, WA 98550 (Between 1995 and 2010, 140 Peregrine Falcons were captured and color-banded during 841 surveys along three coastal beaches of southern Washington. Of 137 falcons identified to sub-

species, 83% were *Falco peregrinus pealei,* four were *F. p. anatum,* four were *F. p. tundrius* and 15 were intermediate. More were banded during the fall [39%] or winter [36%] than in the spring [21%] or summer [4%]. Young birds were captured more frequently than older birds during autumn and winter. One bird was resighted 70 times over seven years after banding, another 36 times over six years. Seventy-five banded birds were resighted alive and nine recovered dead. Color bands helped determine degree of beach fidelity. Marked birds were identified as far as 1,019 km n. in BC, 1,679 km s. in CA and 83 km e. in WA. Six Peregrines banded elsewhere were also seen: four banded as nestlings on the San Juan Islands, one banded on Langara Is., BC, and one banded along the lower Columbia River. Known causes of death included predation by a Bald Eagle, being shot, and colliding with a wire fence.) MKM

Birds of north Peace River (Fort St. John and vicinity), British Columbia, 1975-1999 [:] Part 1 (Introduction and nonpasserines: waterfowl through woodpeckers). C. Siddle. 2010. *Wildlife Afield* 7:12-123. 6131 Silver Star Rd., Vernon, BC V1B 3P3 (More recently than 1999, Doreen Cubie captured 53 Calliope, ten Ruby-throated and one Rufous hummingbird at feeders at 14 homes between Tupper and Charlie lakes, BC, thus providing confirmation of previously unconfirmed reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in the portion of Canada's aspen parklands that extends into northeastern BC.) MKM

Baillie Fund highlight: humming along. A.P. Coughlan. 2012. *BirdWatch Canada* 59:16. Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (Summary of 2011 banding in AB and BC in 2011 by Doreen Cubie, including those mentioned by Siddle in previous abstract and northern-most banding of Ruby-throated Hummingbird to date at North Star, AB. Also mentioned are the recaptures in 2011 of a male Ruby-throated banded as a fledgling at Falcon Lake, MB, in 2010 and of four females banded near Morden, MB, also in 2010.) MKM

Dispersal, band encounters, and causes of death in a reintroduced and rapidly growing population of Peregrine Falcons. T. Katzner, J.D. Winton, F.A. McMorris and D. Brauning. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:75-83. Div. of Forestry & Nat. Resources, Box 6125, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV 26506-6125 (After the extirpation of nesting Peregrines in Pennsylvania, they began to nest naturally in the state again about 1986 as a result of reintroductions starting in 1976, with populations growing steadily. From 1994-2008, occupied nest sites rose from five to 23 per year, with those successful in fledging young increasing from four to 21 per year. All but three of these nested on man-made structures rather than on traditional natural sites. All accessible birds at nests since 1991 were color banded. Subsequent encounters indicated that females moved farther than males. Dispersal distances of males hatched at bridges did not vary from those banded on buildings. Similarly, females dispersing from nests on bridges moved similar distances to those moving from buildings. Dispersal distances of neither gender changed significantly over time. Birds reared at one type of site showed no preference for the same type of site [bridges, building or cliffs] over alternate types of sites. Of 79 band encounters, 24 were of dead birds, the cause of death being documented in 46%, with collisions attributed to 29%, and electrocution and shooting accounting for most of the others.) MKM

LPBO: a year in review. S. Mackenzie. 2012. *Bird Watch Canada* 59:21-22. Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (Brief overview of banding, other research and educational efforts at Long Point Bird Observatory in 2011, when 28,343 birds of 153 species were banded, bringing their all-time total to 861,416 birds of 281 species.) MKM

Natal dispersal of an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). D.L. Cook. 2011. *Discovery* 40:16-18. c/o Vancouver Nat. Hist. Soc., Box 3021, Vancouver, BC V6B 3X5 (A band found below a Bald Eagle nest tree in North Vancouver, BC, in July 2002 had been applied to a nestling Osprey 468 km SE near Newport, WA, in July 1998.) MKM

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) migratory behavior, demographics, and population trends in Manitoba. C.C. de Ruyck, J. Duncan and N. Koper. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:84-97. The Old Nursuries, West Torrington, Lincoln, Linconshire, LN8 5SQ. UK (After netting data from 1999-2001 indicated that approximately 98% of fall migratory movements of Northern Saw-whet Owls through the Delta Marsh, MB area occurred from 15 Sep to 31 Oct, netting and call playbacks were used for at least four hours on all nights of suitable weather from 2002-2008 to monitor population dynamics. Results from 1,535 owls banded suggested regularly timed fall migration of primarily HY males and females and AHY females, with large annual fluctuations in numbers, but significant increases in SY and ASY females. Captures are graphed and tabulated by age and sex for each year. Fall banding data were combined with spring nocturnal owl surveys to assess population trends locally and in comparison with data from Saskatchewan.) MKM

Monitoring the future of BC's birds: Iona Island Bird Observatory. M. Boyd. 2011. *Discovery* 40:51-56. Vancouver Nat. Hist. Soc., Box 3021, Vancouver, BC V6B 3X5 (Summary of results of first year or two years of three mist-net-based monitoring programs in Iona Beach Regional Park, Richmond, BC, with tables of top ten species captured and banded in each season and text describing effort, numbers of species and individuals captured, recaptures and other highlights in each season.) MKM

Sex-specific migration trends of Northern Saw-whet Owls in eastern North America. S.R. Beckett and G.A. Proudfoot. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:98-108. Dept. of Biol., Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604 (Of 14,710 saw-whet owls assigned to sex during fall migration banding at 125 banding stations in eastern North America from 1999-2008, 14% were considered male and 86% female. DNA analysis of 592 owls captured in New York state indicated that 85% could be assigned to sex, with 97% of those assigned by morphometrics congruent with genetic analysis, with a disproportionate number of males assigned as "unknown." Comparisons between masses and wing chords taken by different banders between captures indicated rather low differences. The disproportionate number of females captured apparently reflects a tendency of females to migrate greater distances than males, with some evidence that the proportionate difference varies with irruption status.) MKM

Use of satellite transmitters to delineate Bald Eagle communal roosts within the upper Chesapeake Bay. B.D. Watts and E.K. Mojica. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:121-128. Center for Conserv. Biol., College of William & Mary and Virginia Commonwealth Univ., Williamsburg, VA 23187 (Between 2007 and 2009, solar-powered satellite transmitters were attached to 63 eagles and nocturnal roost locations determined to delineate boundaries of communal roosts. Marked eagles included nestlings and both resident and migrant adults. More than 27% of roost locations apparently reflected solitary roosting and 72% were clustered within 170 communal roosts of varying areas, frequency of use and numbers of transmittered birds present. The number of communal roosts has grown ten-fold over 20 years.) MKM

Quantifying sources of mortality and wintering ranges of Golden Eagles from interior Alaska using banding and satellite tracking. C.L. McIntyre. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:129-134. U.S. Natl. Park Serv., 4175 Geist Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709 (From 1988 to 2009, 307 Golden Eagle nestlings were banded in Denali Natl. Park, AK, and vicinity and satellite transmitters were added to 48 of these nestlings from 1997 to 1999 before they fledged. Ten of the banded-only nestlings were encountered again within one year of banding. All re-encountered banded-only eagles were more than 800 km from the banding location from southern Alberta to north-central Mexico within less than 2 km from a road or human settlement, whereas radio-tagged eagles were encountered from southeastern New Mexico during winter. Electrocution and shooting were the prime causes of mortality of banded birds, whereas all 14 recoveries of dead radio-tagged eagles were more than 5 km from a road and all died of starvation. Radio-tagged birds provided more data

on range use than banded-only birds, but radio-tagged birds appeared to winter farther north, suggesting that radio tags may have reduced distances flown.) MKM

Exposure of Bald Eagles to lead on the northern Channel Islands, California. J.E. Pagel, P.B. Sharpe, D.K. Garcelon, A.E. Little, S.K. Taylor, K.R. Faulkner and C.S. Gorbics. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:168-176. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Carslbad Fish & Wildl. Off., Recovery Branch, 6010 Hidden Valley Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92011 (Data from satellite transmitters on Bald Eagles from a marked population of birds released from captive breeding indicated that eagles that spent most of their time on Santa Rosa Is., CA, had the highest lead levels in that region.) MKM

The Greater Sage-Grouse in Canada. D. Hausleitner. 2012. *BirdWatch Canada* 60:4-5. c/o Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (Radio-telemetry research in Alberta indicates that nest and breeding success there are within or above "the normal limits" for this species.) MKM

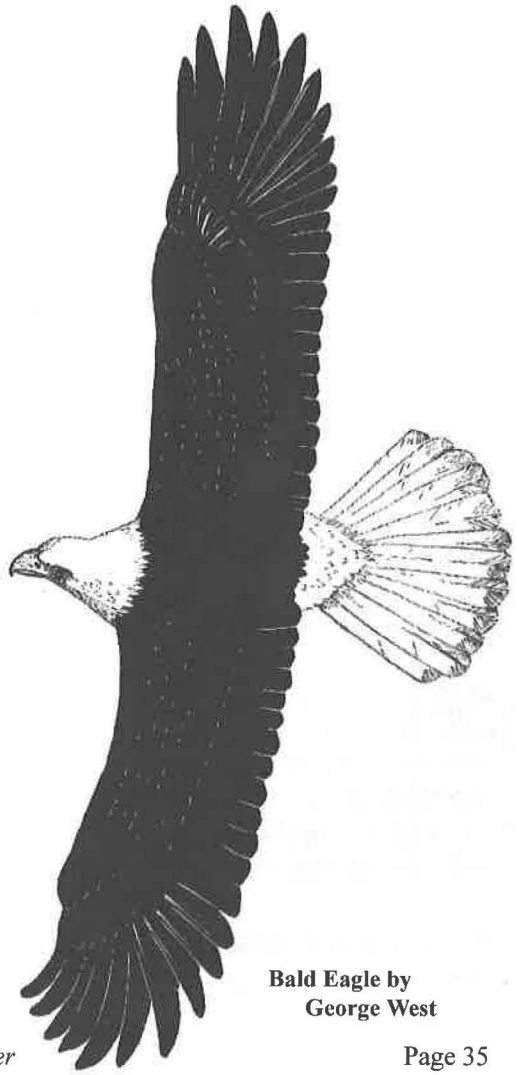
NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Seabird Islands No. 8/1 [:] Brush Island, New South Wales. N. Carlile, D. Priddel, C. Blackmore, P. Craven and M. Jarman. 2012. *Corella* 36:45-47. NSW Office of Environ. & Heritage, Box1967, Hurtsville, New South Wales 2220 (None of 21 adult Wedge-tailed Shearwaters banded to date have been recovered, while two of 225 adult and 22 nestling Short-tailed Shearwaters have been recovered 29 km S 11 months after banding and 179 km N almost 10 years after banding.) MKM

Seabird Islands No. 26/1 [:] Wasp Island, New South Wales. D. Priddel, N. Carlile, C.J. Blackmore, M. Jarman and P. Craven. 2012. *Corella* 36:47-49. (No recoveries have yet been reported from 14 adult Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, 15 adult Short-tailed Shearwaters and 13 nestling White-faced Storm-Petrels banded in 1969. Data from a 1973 banding visit have not yet been reported and numbers of Sooty Oystercatchers banded on a 2000 visit are not indicated.) MKM

Effect of sex and age at release on the independence of hacked Harpy Eagles. E. Campbell-Thompson, F. Hernan Vargas, R.T. Watson, A. Muela and N.C. Caceres. 2012. *Journal of Raptor Research* 46:158-167. Programa de Pos-graduacao wm Ecologia e Conseracao, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, MS 79.070-900, Brazil (Of 34 color-banded Harpy Eagle young [19 males and 15 females] hacked with back-pack mounted transmitters in Panama and Brazil from 2002 to 2007, survival of those released at a younger age [5-7 months] was lower [70%] than those [100%] released at an older age [18-22 months]. The average length of the dependence period was longer for males of the younger release age, but longer for females of the older age. The overall mean survival time to independence was 19.3 months, with deaths resulting from predation or entanglement.) MKM

MKM = *Martin K. McNicholl*



Bald Eagle by George West