

Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Early Saskatchewan bird banders. C. S. Houston. 2005. *Blue Jay* 63:130-135. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 (Banding activities, some banding results and some biographical details of Thomas Harper, Alan and Ralph Hedlin, Donald and Ronald Hooper, Bryan J. Insinger, Edmund LaVallee, Homer Myers, Arthur Simard, Arthur Ward and R.C. Willett between 1932 and 1957. The banding location of Homer Myers' efforts are corrected to the village of Rabbit Lake rather than a lake by the same name to which the banding office had ascribed them erroneously. A closing paragraph outlines banding by four naturalists who had banded small numbers of birds between 1927 and 1934 without banding permits.) MKM

Saskatchewan waterfowl banders to 1954. C. S. Houston. 2005. *Blue Jay* 63:175-178. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 (Brief summaries of bird-banding activities in Saskatchewan of 29 banders associated with Ducks Unlimited, the Dominion/Canadian Wildlife Service, National Museum of Canada, Prince Albert National Park and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or visiting the province privately. Banding effort of each is outlined and significant recoveries are mentioned.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Fading of UV-stable coloured bands on shorebirds. J. A. Robinson and L. W. Oring. 1997. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 84:45-46. Earth Observations Progr., c/o Lockheed Martin, 2400 NASA Rd. 1, C23, Houston, TX 77058-3799 (Colored tape and bands placed on avocets, stilts and Killdeer banded in California and Nevada examined on birds recaptured one to two years after banding showed that tape was less likely to fade than Darvic "UV-resistant" bands, with blue and yellow bands fading more than other colors. Some red bands faded, while others turned brown.) MKM

Feather stable isotopes in western North American waterfowl: spatial patterns, underlying factors, and management applications. C. E. Hebert and L. I. Wassenaar. 2005. *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 33:92-102. Can. Wildl. Serv., Environ. Canada, Natl. Wildl. Res. Centre, Carleton Univ., Raven Rd., Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3 (Stable isotopes of S, H, C and N are naturally occurring biomarkers that can be used to identify natal origins of waterfowl. Feathers from pre-fledging Mallards and Northern Pintails were collected from 52 sites across northwestern North America. Distinctive isotope patterns were identified for four large geographic regions—Alaska, northern Canada, the prairies and northern California. Geographic variation in isotope patterns presumably is caused by natural variation in biogeochemical cycles, as well as region-specific use of agricultural chemicals.) SG

An overview of the Greater Flamingo ringing program in the Camargue (southern France) and some aspects of the species' breeding biology using marked individuals. A. R. Johnson. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23, special publ. 1:2-8. Stn. Biol. de la Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, 13200 Arles, France (Summary of banding techniques, efforts and results from 1947 to 1998, including changes in capture techniques and band/tag types used in different years. Although banding was originally of nestlings, resulting disturbance to the colony resulted in a shift to banding chicks in post-fledging crèches. Changes in band/tag design and advantages/disadvantages of each are mentioned. About 500 birds have been resighted or recovered in the Mediterranean and west African regions, including more than ten birds of 30+ years and one of 40 years. Resightings have provided data on plumage development, age of first breeding, breeding frequency and several life history parameters. Greater Flamingo banding efforts in Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan and Spain are also summarized briefly.) MKM

The distribution and density of Lesser Flamingos in East Africa in relation to food availability and productivity. C. H. Tuite. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23, spec. publ. 1:52-63. Internatl. Fund

for Animal Welfare, 411 Main St., Yarmouth Port, VA 02675 (To obtain morphometric data, 65 birds were captured by chasing them early in the morning, when flying ability was reduced by cold and/or wet plumage! Pole nets were used to capture 57 birds.) MKM

To catch an owl. R. [W.] Nero. 2001. *Nature Soc. News* Jan. 2001:31. 546 Coventry Rd., Winnipeg, MB R3R 1B6 (Brief account of method of catching Great Gray and occasionally other owl species by either placing a mammal in a cage on the snow or, more often, casting out a mammal-like lure on a fishing line and reeling it in, then netting the owl when it attempts to catch the bait. At the time the article was written, Herb Copland and Nero had caught several hundred owls by this method. Copland netted one Great Gray by watching its shadow when it stooped on the lure after perching on Copland's head!) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Apparent hybrid Lincoln's x Song Sparrow at Boundary Lake. C. Charlesworth. 2003. *B.C. Birds* 13:10. 725 Richards Rd., Kelowna, B.C. V1X 2X5 (Description of bird seen in north-eastern B.C. intermediate in size between Lincoln's and Song sparrows, with plumage traits of both.) MKM

An apparent Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye hybrid. K. McLaughlin, G. Naylor and B. Lamond. 2005. *Ont. Birds* 23:34-37. 30 Bingham Rd., Hamilton, ON L8H 1N4 (Detailed description of an apparent male hybrid in comparison with nearby Common Goldeneyes diving in Lake Ontario near Burlington, ON. This bird is compared with a specimen shot in Deception Pass, WA, in 1988.) MKM

Evidence of seasonal sex ratio manipulation in the Greater Flamingo. G. Bertault, M. Raymond, F. Rousset, F. Cezily and A. R. Johnson. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23 Special Publ. 1:20-25. Dept. d'Ornithol., Stn. Biol. de la Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, 13200 Arles, France (Tarsal length is sexually dimorphic by the time that chicks are old enough to band, but independent of gender before 9-11 months of age.) MKM

Plumages and molt patterns in captive Caribbean Flamingos. P. W. Shannon. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23 Special Publ. 1:160-172. Audubon Park & Zool. Garden, Box 4327, New Orleans, LA 70178 (A detailed study of plumage and progress of molt on individual birds showed that timing of flight feather molt varied with age and breeding status, whereas frequency and timing of molt of body feathers differed among feather tracts, some undergoing two molts annually, others three.) MKM

Comparison of hand-reared Caribbean Flamingos and Lesser Flamingos at Seaworld California. L. E. Burch and C. Gailband. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23 Special Publ. 1:193-197. SeaWorld Calif., 500 SeaWorld Dr., San Diego, CA 92109 (Including growth rates, as measured by mass increases.) MKM

Gross bill deformity and longevity in a Northern Flicker. S. L. Lidstone. 2004. *Wildlife Afield* 1:62-64. 248 McClure-Ferry Rd., McLure, B.C. V0E 2H0 (Description, with drawings, of male intergrade observed from January 2003 to October 2004 with abnormally long bill and progression of change in bill as it grew longer while the upper mandible grew down, the lower to the left.) MKM

The Ontario Great Gray Owl irruption of 2004-2005: mortality, sex, molt and age. M. K. Peck and G. B. Murphy. 2005. *Ont. Birds* 23:122-137. Dept. Nat. Hist., Roy. Ont. Mus., 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M5S 2C6 (Data from 100 birds banded by four banders were combined with road kills and other specimens to determine age and gender proportions. Extensive molt and plumage data are also presented, with excellent photographs.) MKM

Ageing and variation of Great Gray Owls. R. Pittaway and J. Iron. 2005. *Ont. Birds* 23:138-146. 4 Anson St., Box 619, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 (Detailed, well illustrated, discussion of differences between first year and adult Great Gray Owls with notes and comments on second year plumage, molts, sub-species, morphs, albinism and melanism based partly on the literature and partly on museum specimens, especially those discussed in the paper by Peck and James abstracted above.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Observations on nest predation by Cooper's Hawks on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

A. C. Stewart. 2003. *B.C. Birds* 13:7-8. 3932 Telegraph Bay Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8N 4H7 (Observation of color bands on a male Cooper's Hawk that took a nestling American Robin from its nest enabled the researcher to determine that it had three of its own nestlings to feed at the time of predation.) MKM

Bald Eagle nest with young in southern Saskatchewan. D. Zazelenchuk. 2005. *Blue Jay* 63:127-129. Box 39, Kyle, SK S0L 1T0 (Three nestlings were banded in a nest near the confluence of the Red Deer and South Saskatchewan rivers as part of the documentation of the first known successful nesting [third known nesting attempt] in southern Saskatchewan in at least 100 years.) MKM

Ontario Bird Records Committee report for 2004. W. J. Crins. 2005. *Ont. Birds* 23:54-75. 170 Middlefield Rd., Peterborough, ON K9J 8G1 (Color bands on a Piping Plover at Burlington on Lake Ontario indicated that it had been banded at one of two sites in Michigan in 2003. Another observed at Rondeau Provincial Park on Lake Erie had also been banded in Michigan, possibly also in 2003. Banding and measurements taken during banding contributed to documentation of a Rufous Hummingbird at Niagara Falls.) MKM

Spatial ecology and habitat selection of breeding male pheasants. A. P. Leif. 2005. *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 33:130-141. S. Dak. Dept. Game, Fish and Parks, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501 (Radio-telemetry was used to document male Ring-necked Pheasant habitat selection in South Dakota. Three-fourths of the marked males moved more than 500 m from their winter capture sites to spring breeding sites. Timing of dispersal and percent of males dispersing appear related to warm March temperatures and winter severity respectively. Mean home range size of males in spring suggested two types of breeding behavior. Some males appeared to be territorial with small home ranges and infrequent movements, whereas others had larger home ranges, but moved more frequently. Both groups of males preferred woody

cover and idle herbaceous habitats during the breeding season, although the non-territorial males included more open habitat in their home ranges than did the territorial males.) SG

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Nocturnal movements of breeding Greater Flamingos in southern Spain. M. Rendon-Martos, J. Mario Vargasm, M. A. Rendon, A. Garrido and J. M. Ramirez. 2000. *Waterbirds* 22 Spec. Publ. 1:9-19. Reserva Nat., Fuente de Piedra, Conserjeria de Medio Ambiente, Apartado 1, 29520, Fuente de Piedra, Malaga, Spain (In a study of movement distances and patterns between the only seasonal lake in Europe where Greater Flamingos breed regularly and areas where adults forage, observations of color-banded adults in different parts of Andalusia showed that breeding adults fly up to 200 km to forage.) MKM

A review of the ecology and conservation of Caribbean Flamingos in Yucatan, Mexico. G. A. Baldassare and F. Arengo. 2000. *Waterbirds* 22 Spec. Publ. 1:70-79. State Univ. New York, College Environ. Sci. & Forestry, 1 Forestry Dr., Syracuse, NY 13210 (Radio-tracking of 98 birds allowed observers to compare amount of movement of breeding birds with that of non-breeding birds.) MKM

Garden ringing—a heap of information waiting to be harvested. M. Brown and K. Brown. 2003. *Afring News* 32:2-5. School of Botany & Zool., Univ. Natal, Bag X01, Scottsville 3209, South Africa (During 55 days of mist-netting, trapping with walk-in traps or trapping with spring traps in a garden in Ashburton, South Africa, 788 birds of 64 species were caught and banded, including several species that were not detected prior to being trapped. In the first two years of banding at this location, trapping/banding data have provided some information on duration of stay of different individuals of some species, and data on chronology of primary molt and brood patch in several species.) MKM

A new ringer and a ringing visit to Kenya. G. Grieve. 2003. *Afring News* 32:6. 344 Delphinus St., Waterkloof Ridge 0181, South Africa (Brief notes on banding by the Nairobi Ringing Group.) MKM

Ringling and birding experiences in paradise: a trip to Papua New Guinea. C. T. Symes. 2003. *Afring News* 32:7-10. School of Botany & Zool., Bag X01, Scottsville 3209, South Africa (During a seven month bird survey project in Eastern Highlands Province, 46 birds of 19 species were captured and banded over a ten day period and 26 were recaptured. Results are compared with previous efforts in the area, with emphasis on site fidelity.) MKM

Malachite Sunbird recaptured after ten years. D. H. de Swardt. 2003. *Afring News* 32:11. Dept. Ornithol., Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa (A sunbird banded as a juvenile was recaptured in the same plant clump in four subsequent years, most recently when 10 years three days old, the second oldest known to date. A Fiscal Shrike recaptured 12 years, seven months after being banded is also mentioned.) MKM

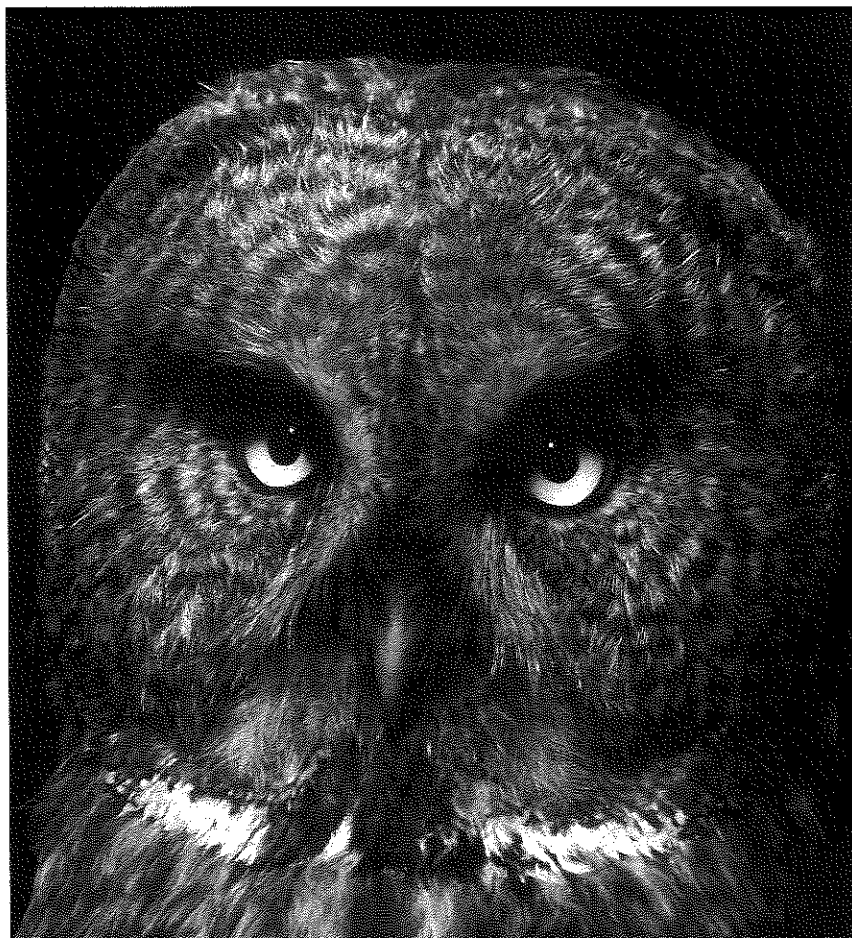
The Bloemfontein swallow project: 2001-2003. R. Nuttall. 2003. *Afring News* 32:12-15. Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa (15,298 European [Barn] Swallows were banded during 74 banding sessions at two sites in South Africa, when 275 South African banded and 48 foreign banded swallows were recaptured. The foreign-banded birds were from ten European countries, with exactly half [24] from the United Kingdom.) MKM

Bird ringing on Inhaca Island, Mozambique. H. D. Oschadleus and C. N. Lotz. 2003. *Afring News* 32:23-26. Avian Demogr. Unit, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa (12 birds of six species were banded at four sites during one winter week. Results of previous banding efforts on the island are discussed and tabulated.) MKM

Note: Thanks to Bob Nero for a copy of his 2001 article on his long-term Great Gray Owl project.

SG = Steven Gabrey

MKM =Martin K. McNicholl



Great Gray Owl
photo by R. Pantle