

A FIELD GUIDE TO MEXICAN BIRDS

By Roger Tory Peterson and Edward L. Chalif - published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1973 Hard Cover \$8.95

This book is another classic in the Peterson Field Guide Series, number 20 to be exact. This Peterson Field Guide is brought to bear on the birds of Mexico. This compact Field Guide is not only complete in its coverage of the birds of Mexico but also of Guatemala, Belize (British Honduras), and El Salvador. The total number of species treated is 1038, and includes the majority of those to be encountered in the other Middle American countries - Honduras 93%; Nicaragua 86%; Costa Rica 66%; and Panama 56½%.

This guide, like its predecessors, emphasizes the distinguishing characteristics of birds when seen at a distance. Confusingly similar species are clearly differentiated by patternistic drawings in identical poses with key field marks indicated by arrows. The 48 full page plates by Roger Tory Peterson are in full color.

Reviewed by Harvey Farber

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By Richard French - published by Livingston Publishing Co., Wynnewood, Pa. Feb., 1974 \$12.50 Hard Cover

This book is a notable achievement. It is, first of all, an invaluable field guide to more than 400 species. The author gives full descriptions and habitat notes, life-history and behavior, songs and nesting patterns. He discusses the present status of species, the effects of expanding human settlement and cultivation, and the efforts at conservation.

The book is also the most complete illustrated guide to the birds of this area. It has 26 identification plates, 28 color plates by the ornithologist artist, John O'Neill. Also, there are 8 full-page color portraits. This book is a must for people interested in birds of the southern caribbean because the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, politically part of the West Indies, lie barely ten miles from the great Orinoco delta of Venezuela, and share with their mainland neighbor a rich and varied fauna.

Reviewed by Harvey Farber

BANDING LITERATURE NEWS
BY N.J. CUTRIGHT and D.L. WOOD

AGE RATIOS OF COASTAL AND INLAND FALL MIGRANT
PASSERINES IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

By R.M. Stewart, L.R. Mewaldt, and S. Kaiser
Bird Banding 45, 46 (1974)

Age ratios of common fall migrants are presented for an insular, a coastal, and an inland banding station on an east-west transect of California. In general the ratios of immatures to adults are higher at the insular and coastal stations than at the inland stations (91% immature at coastal and 59% immature inland for common parulids). Exceptions occur because in migration waves the immatures are less numerous, or because the adults of some species migrate before mid-August when the studies began each year. The discussion includes comment on the interesting question as to whether the higher percentage of immatures along the coast is due to genetically induced navigational errors.

AGE AND SEX DETERMINATION OF NESTLING COMMON GRACKLES

By P.B. Hamel, Bird Banding 45, 16 (1974)

A scheme for ageing and sexing nestling grackles involves weighing and measuring of external characters such as culmen and tarsus lengths. Although there is appreciable overlap (64% identifiable) as in the case of adults (80% identifiable) the culmen and tarsus length criterion for sex of nestlings older than 11 days seems useful. A tarsus greater than 35 mm. and/or culmen greater than (or =) 16 mm. is a male. A tarsus less than or equal to 32 mm. and/or culmen less than 15 mm. is a female. The age from 4 to 13 days can be determined to an accuracy of less than 1 day by an algebraic formula involving weight, wing chord, and the proportion of innermost primary which is split from the sheath. A simplified formula based only on wing chord is an accurate to slightly more than 1 day.

Birding, the official journal of the American Birding Association, Inc., is published bi-monthly and is now in its sixth year. The ABA formerly had as its sole purpose the promotion of birding as a hobby and a sport and to assist its members in their pursuit of this popular activity. Its scope recently was enlarged to include education of the public in the appreciation of birds and their contribution to the environment, contributions to the study of birds in their natural habitat, and contributions to the development of improved methods of population studies of birds. The journal's most unique feature is bird finding inserts that either describe a birding hot spot or where to locate a specific species. While chiefly concerned with the sport of "listing", general articles appear on bird finding information, both domestic and foreign; bird identification techniques and problems; birding equipment; outstanding birding

trip experiences; reviews; and announcements. A very interesting Letter to the Editor section occurs in most issues. Recent articles that may be of particular interest to banders include: "Field Identification": Vol. 5(173-177), "Separation of DOWITCHER CALLS: A Call for Communication": Vol. 5 (73-76), and "Can I Count a Netted Bird?" Vol. 5 (113-116). An individual membership is \$7.50 (overpriced?) per year. Communications regarding membership may be sent to Benton Basham, Box 6, Dunlap, Tennessee 37327.

Hickey, J.J. 1952. Survival studies of banded birds. U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv. Spec. Sci. Rep. Wildl. #15. 177 pp. (Avail. from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Wash. D.C. 20402)

This important work by one of our most prominent biologists was reprinted with minor correction in 1972. Explorations in population dynamics of the following representative American birds are discussed: Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Redhead, Marsh Hawk, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl and Blue Jay.

Anderson, D.R. 1972. Bibliography on methods of analyzing bird banding data. U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv. Spec. Sci. Rep. Wildl. #156. 13 pp. (Also available from Printing Office)

This current bibliography contains nearly 200 references. In this work, where special reference is given to the estimation of population size and survival, there are discussions of current methods, deterministic and stochastic models, theory, iterative solutions and assumptions. A very valuable publication for all bird banders to possess.

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Editor's Note:

We very much regret the delays which causes this issue to be almost 9 weeks behind schedule. Jeff and Jeanne Swinebroad advised me that proofreading of the Directory was extremely frustrating because the original material is not typed.

The Swinebroads have been proofing EBBA NEWS for almost two years now. Increased demands on their time from other sources was the deciding factor in asking us to release them from this responsibility. They deserve our sincere thanks!

This issue was typed by Mrs. Sharon L. Snyder. It was published by the firm of Edward M. Johnson, Printers, of Belleville, New Jersey.

F.S. Schaeffer

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 3. FEATURE ARTICLES EMPHASIZING PROJECTS BANDERS CAN ENGAGE IN.
- C. TECHNICAL REPORTS ON PROGRAMS CONCERNED WITH BIRD BANDING AND ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDIES USING BIRD BANDING AS A PRIMARY DATA SOURCE.

SUGGESTIONS FOR AUTHORS REMAIN UNCHANGED, EXCEPT THAT WE NOW ASK YOU TO SEND US TWO COPIES OF YOUR MANUSCRIPT, IF POSSIBLE.