

THE SEQUENCE OF PLUMAGES AND MOULTS OF THE PASSERINE BIRDS OF  
NEW YORK

By Jonathan Dwight, Jr.

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The well-known classic by Jonathan Dwight, Jr., has finally been reprinted! In a new introduction by Kenneth C. Parkes, we read that it is just that, a classic, not a summary of what is now known. This has to be emphasized. When the new ageing and sexing manual comes forth from the Bird Banding Laboratory, the Dwight work will easily complement it as a source manual. Until then, we must do with the limited means available to us, and use this work with some caution.

Although Dwight uses molt classifications which are now outdated, but can easily be adapted to the Humphrey-Parkes method, the first six chapters are priceless! They describe the exact sequence of molt stages.

The A.O.U. checklist sequence used is no great problem with a newly added index by Katherine Gillam Price. This also contains latin names currently in use. The binding is durable, the copy is light and can easily be used in the field.

Natal down coloration is indicated for many species, a subject about which still too little is known and even less published. Another feature which I find most useful is constant reference to feather wear in the different molt stages. This is often overlooked, yet forms a vital part of ageing and sexing criteria. If anything, it alone indicated that no two birds are alike and that criteria should be applied to each individual bird handled.

In several cases, this book has been immensely helpful to me in the past (I have been fortunate to have had a copy since 1958, which has since fallen apart and has practically disintegrated). One case in point is the faintly flecked chin marks in the Louisiana Waterthrush (EBBA NEWS 37:128). Many of the serious technical discussions at some of the banding stations I've visited, have been resolved with a thorough consultation with Dwight.

The reprinting of this fine book did not come about by itself. Mrs. Katherine G. Price is the cornerstone of this effort. Through her unselfish effort and persistence, she convinced the New York Academy of Sciences of the

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**New York  
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takes pleasure in presenting

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need to have this volume reprinted. We thank her for this valiant effort. We also thank Bill Boland, Executive Editor of NYAS and his colleagues for their wisdom and cooperation in this matter.

A copy of this work should be on the bookshelf of every ornithologist, bander and serious birder as a field or library reference, along with other monographs dealing with ageing and sexing birds in the field. We recommend that you get your copy soon, before they become extinct again; this volume is not only important to those who reside in New York State, but all over America, wherever these birds breed, winter, or migrate to.

--F.S. Schaeffer, Editor  
Eastern Bird Banding Association

(Ed. Note: The advertisement on the previous page was donated by Frederick S. Schaeffer and Robert J. Pantle)

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NEWS FROM THE BANDING LAB. (Cont'd from page 200)

"Graham Cooch, from the Canadian Wildlife Service, came to the Bird Banding Lab and discussed with us the establishment of a revised joint policy for supplying banding data to requestors. With an understanding on data requests, Graham is now going to get all of the Bird Banding Manual revisions to the printer. With these changes, we will also get a new revision of the manual for new banders."  
(6/6/75)

"A summary of our information on the Bird Banding Laboratory during the past calendar year shows that we had 131 new Master permits issued, with a total of 1,957. During the year there were also 338 subpermits issued for a total of 1,871 subpermitees."  
(7/9/75)

"We had an increase in color marking authorizations this past year with almost 700 new issuances or revisions going into effect.

During 1974 we processed approximately 1 million new bandings.

During June we processed two outside data requests for banding and recovery information. Most outside data requests are being held until the File updates are completed about the middle of September."  
(7/9/75)

"Dave Evans, who is doing grad work at North Dakota State University and has been running the Duluth Raptor Banding Station, is working in the Banding Lab on age/sex sheets for birds of prey for the summer. Kathy Klimkiewicz is also back with us for the summer and will be working on age/sex keys. Jay Sheppard is currently on vacation and announced to us that he is getting married in July."  
(7/9/75)

OFFICERS, COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION WISH JAY THE BEST OF LUCK AND HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS!