

## GENERAL NOTES

**An Evaluation of Four Wildlife Marking Materials.**—Patagial wing markers have been used to mark individual birds for a number of years (Knowlton, Michael, and Glazener, *J. Wildl. Manage.*, **28**: 167–170, 1964; Anderson, *J. Wildl. Manage.*, **27**: 284–288, 1963, and others). When using the Saflag material (Safety Flag Company of America, Pawtucket, RI) recommended by Knowles et al. over an extended period of time to mark various species of birds, we encountered two problems. First, the material did not reliably hold up after two years and secondly, within a year the original color faded, making many tag colors impossible to distinguish.

Four materials were tested for colorfastness and durability. The materials were Saflag, Dantex (C. R. Daniels Co., Ellicott City, MD), Herculite (Herculite Protective Fabrics Corp., Newark, NJ) and Weym-O-Seal (Weymouth Art Leather Company, South Braintree, MA). To evaluate colorfastness, a sample of red material from each company was weathered in direct sunlight for one year. Durability was tested by strapping a 23-cm strip of each material to the strut of an aircraft.

The results of the colorfastness test are apparent in Figure 1. After weathering for one year, the original color of the Saflag was lost. The Dantex was somewhat faded, but the original color was perceptible. Weym-O-Seal and Herculite became dull, but the original color was readily apparent. After 10.5 hr of flying time, the Herculite began to fray along the edges and at the ends, but the Weym-O-Seal was virtually intact. After 7.5 hr of flying time, the Dantex was reduced by 20% and the Saflag began coming apart after only 6 hr.

With colorfastness and durability as desired criteria, the Saflag seemed the least suitable of the four materials. Although less durable than Weym-O-Seal and Herculite, Dantex was relatively colorfast and may have application for short term studies where colorfastness is desirable but longevity is not. Weym-O-Seal was the most durable of the four fabrics tested and colorfastness of the red material was adequate for long term study. Under field conditions, Weym-O-Seal might hold up twice or three times as long as Saflag.—STEPHEN A. NESBITT, *Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Wildlife Research Laboratory, 4005 S Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601*. Received 8 June 1978, accepted 22 October 1978.

