

Work in Progress

This column is a posting of projects both afield and in the study that are seeking the assistance of the ornithological community in providing needed information and observational reports. Readers, whether they be active birders or not, may find themselves in a position to participate, often in important ways, in current avian research. The objectives of several of the studies listed below can only be realized through the cooperation of volunteer participants. Projects dependent on the tracing of color-marked birds, for example, are entirely dependent for their success not only upon prior publicity, but also responsible observers.

For projects seeking reports of marked birds it is advisable to include the following information: (a) Date and time of sighting, (b) Location of sighting, (c) Name(s) and address(es) of observer(s), (d) Species of bird and how marked; if color-dyed give all details of where on bird the dye appeared, if color-banded give leg and relative position of the bands (e.g. left leg, blue over green, etc.), if color-tagged give color and placing of tag (e) Activity and condition of the bird (f) Species and flock size of birds associated with the marked bird.

Finally it is important to submit reports of observations as soon as possible following the sighting so that your contribution can be effectively utilized.

ESKIMO CURLEW — J.G. Strauch, Jr., Museum of Zoology, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, requests that any information on the location of skeletal remains of the Eskimo Curlew be sent to him to aid in his studies of this assumed extinct species.

PEREGRINE FALCON — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is compiling a bibliography with abstracts of English language literature on the Peregrine Falcon. This includes articles in which the Peregrine is not the main topic and articles not in English but with English summaries. Authors wishing to have their work in this compendium should send two copies (or reprints or abstracts) to Richard D. Porter, I.F. & R.E.S. Shrub Lab, 735 North 500 East, Provo, Utah 84601.

GREAT GRAY OWL — M. Collins, Department of Zoology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 2N2, is presently

studying the historical and present status of the Great Gray Owl in North America and would appreciate any unpublished information on sight records or possible breeding occurrences of this species:

GOLDEN EAGLE, PRAIRIE FALCON, RED-TAILED HAWK, COMMON RAVEN — Adults of these species in the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area have been fitted with color-coded vinyl wing markers; juvenile birds of these species in the Area have been fitted with color-coded vinyl wing markers or marked with yellow 'paint' (which may be visible on the birds' dorsal surface) or both. Any sightings of these birds with the appropriate information should be reported to D. Dean Bibbes, District Manager, or Michael N. Kochert, Chief Raptor Research Biologist, Boise District, Bureau of Land Management, 230 Collins Road, Boise, Idaho. This study will continue until 1980.

RED-TAILED HAWK — William A. Smith, Biology Department, University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601 wishes to have any sightings of Red-tailed Hawks with circular, fluorescent, red-orange markings under either wing sent to him with all of the available details

SCREECH OWL — Robert Hoyt, University Village East, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521 requests information to expand a study in progress of this species in the Fort Collins-Loveland Colorado area. He would appreciate any information about sightings or nestings.

HAWKS AND OWLS — Rod Kuehn, 3820 Macalaster Dr. N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55421, is conducting a study of hawks and owls in Minnesota, and needs information on roosting or nesting sites of these birds.

DARK-EYED (SLATE-COLORED) JUNCO — Slate-colored Juncos are being color banded to determine annual population movements in New England and eastern Canada. The banders of the Mohonk Trust are using orange, green, red, and white leg bands. Feeder watchers and field observers are urged to report any sightings of these birds to James Stapleton, The Mohonk Trust, Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, New York 12561

SHOREBIRDS — The extensive shorebird banding and color-marking program begun in 1975 in James Bay, Canada, will continue in 1976. The study is conducted by the Canadian Wildlife Service and yields valuable information on migration routes. Reports, including as much data as possible should be sent to Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3.

SHOREBIRDS — An International Shorebird Survey was started in 1975 to obtain information on shorebird migration and to identify and document areas of major importance. This scheme has, to date, been successful, with information coming from contributors throughout eastern Canada, the United States, the Caribbean Islands, Central America and South America. The sponsors are now anxious to continue and expand the scheme as well as the coverage in as many areas as possible. Any observer who may be able to participate in regular survey counts of shorebirds during spring and autumn migrations as well as in shorebird wintering areas, is asked to contact: In Canada; Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3. In U.S.A., Caribbean Islands, Central America, and South America; Brian A. Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory Manomet, Massachusetts 02345, U.S.A.

SHOREBIRDS — Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers will be banded with both the regular F & W.S. bands and with two orange color bands by the Surinam Forest Service along the Surinam coast during 1976 and 1977. It should be noted that these bands will be placed above the tarsus ('knee') of the bird as opposed to the usual position which is below the tarsus. This program is being conducted in order to obtain more information about the origin of and migration routes to and from that area by these birds. Any sightings of Least or Semis so marked should be reported with all of the accompanying details to: Arie L. Spaans, Surinam Forest Service, P.O. Box 436, Paramaribo, Surinam, South America.

SEABIRDS — The Atlantic and Gulf Coast Beached Bird Survey Project, modelled on a similar study on the West Coast under David Ainley at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, was begun approximately November 1974. It attempts to establish a base line of normal sea bird mortality, as indicated by dead (beached) birds, against which measures of changes can be made. These changes could be either short term, caused by natural or man-made disasters, or long term, caused by a

gradual alteration of the environment, or other factors. Malcolm M. Simons, Jr., Director, 1701 East Harbor View Road, Box 52, Charlotte Harbor, Florida 33950, is seeking participants to help in this project. Anyone interested in such a project on the Pacific Coast should direct queries to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory and not Mr. Simons. Prospective participants will be sent proper forms and instructions from Mr. Simons.

WADING BIRDS — A survey of the colonial wading birds of Florida is being undertaken by the National Audubon Society chapters in Florida. The last time such a survey was undertaken was in the 1950s and since then Cattle Egrets have experienced a population explosion in areas where other egrets and herons formerly nested, and freshwater wetlands once used by waders have greatly declined in total acreage. In order to determine present populations anyone having knowledge of Florida rookeries please notify Ron Ratcliff c/o National Audubon Society, Tavernier, Florida 33070.

COLONIAL BIRDS — There are more than 70 species of birds that nest in colonies throughout North and Central America. Colonial birds are heavily dependent upon a variety of habitats that are under considerable pressure for development. Several agencies have long been interested in monitoring and protecting colonially nesting birds' sites. The Colonial Bird Register, organized by The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, was established in 1975 to serve as a central data bank for the computerized collection and dissemination of information concerning colonial birds. Individuals and agencies working with colonially nesting species are asked to assist with the program by submitting, to the Register, field survey forms detailing the location of colonies, their sizes, species composition, habitat description, disturbance factors, etc. The forms are designed so that a minimum amount of time is required on the part of the investigator for completion. A reasonable fee will be charged for access to the data by agencies, institutions and individuals. The Register is designed as a non-profit operation. Inquiries should be sent to: D.A. McCrimmon, Director, The Colonial Bird Register, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14853.

[For listings in this column, information should be received by the Editors three months in advance of the month of issue.]

—S.R.D