
Trap casualties

Merrill Wood

Occasionally the lid of a Chardonneret trap falls on the head of a bird and the resulting death makes the bander wonder if this efficient type of trap is too dangerous to use. Small birds like wrens and warblers may be killed and large birds like jays and grosbeaks may injure forehead or wings. For comparative purposes I kept records at State College, Pennsylvania, on trap-caused injuries on the next 1,000 birds caught after 6 June 1974 in each of three types of traps, Chardonneret, Potter, and All-Purpose.

Seventeen modified Chardonneret traps (*EBBA Workshop Manual* 2:14, 1963), fastened one meter above ground to a backyard fence or side-yard stone wall, were baited in April through November with a pan of water and in December through March with Loft's Audubon Park Wild Bird Seed Mixture and occasionally, during winter, with white bread and fat. Of the 48 species caught, 2 birds (a Common Yellowthroat and an American Redstart) were killed, 31 birds (23 Blue Jays, 4 Gray Catbirds, 1 Brown Thrasher, 2 American Robins, 1 Swainson's Thrush) injured their foreheads but apparently recovered, 2 birds (Evening Grosbeaks) injured their wings, but not enough to impair flight. Birds killed seem to be those which tried to escape before the lid fell.

Ten one-cell Potter traps (*EBBA Workshop Manual* 2:15, 1963), placed on wooden platforms 1.3 meters above ground, were baited with Wild Bird Seed Mixture and occasionally with white bread and berries. Of the 25 species caught, none were killed, 2 birds (American Robin and Purple Finch) injured their foreheads, 7 birds (3 Mourning Doves, 2 Common Grackles, and 2 Evening Grosbeaks) injured their wings, and 1 (Mourning Dove) injured a foot.

One modified All-Purpose trap (*EBBA Workshop Manual* 2:16, 1963), located on the ground, was baited with Wild Bird Seed Mixture, occasionally with white bread and berries, and in April through November with a dripping water bath. Of the 41 species caught, none were killed, and 5 birds (1 each: Brown Thrasher, Swainson's Thrush, Common Grackle, Evening Grosbeak, and Chipping Sparrow) injured their foreheads although the trap was equipped with two perching bars.

Casualties are regrettable, but the death of two birds per thousand is so low that the Chardonneret trap should be continued in operation. A spring to cause faster closing is not recommended.

An anonymous reviewer gave helpful suggestions for improving this paper.

811 N. Allen St., State College, PA. 16801.

Recent Literature

Edited by Richard W. DeHaven

Banding Equipment and Techniques

A new method for restraining live birds. E.R. Schreiber. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:165. (A cardboard tubular container for birds of different sizes.) LD

Standardization of mist net captures for quantification of avian migration. C.J. Ralph. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:44-47. (A method of using net-hours broken down into 12 equal periods of daylight is suggested for banders who wish to compare mist-netting results seasonally and among each other.) LD

Possible impairment of nest-building of hummingbirds by acetate leg tags. N.M. Waser and W.A. Calder. 1975. *Condor*, 77:361. (Based on two

nest failures among 14 leg-tagged female Broad-tailed Hummingbirds.) LD

Trapping and marking of shorebirds at Humboldt Bay, California. R.H. Gerstenberg and S.W. Harris. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:1-7. (Eighteen species were trapped using three techniques; numbers captured per trapping technique and per unit effort are given. Two marking techniques are evaluated.) LD

Minimizing the dangers of nesting studies to raptors and other sensitive species. R.W. Fyfe and R.R. Olendorff. 1976. *Canadian Wildl. Serv., Occas. Paper*, 23:1-17. (A handy catalogue of the sources and kinds of disturbance, with recommendations for minimizing them if nests have to be visited.) CC

Mortality in ringing — a personal viewpoint. C.S. Houston. 1974. *Ring*, 7:157-161. (Possible mortalities and disturbances caused by banding various species and the offsetting values derived from banding efforts are discussed. From *Bird-Banding*, 47:75-76.) LD

Aging, Sexing, Identification and Anomalies

Non-game birds of the West / an annotated bibliography/the ecology and life history of seven orders. S. Trimble. 1975. Technical Note, USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 320 p. (Includes references on species of cuckoos, goat-suckers, swifts, hummingbirds, trogons, kingfishers, woodpeckers and those passerines that commonly occur in the BLM West. Species are assigned to major habitats.) Available (free) from BLM, Denver Service Ctr., Fed. Ctr., Bldg. 50, Denver, CO 80225. LD

Age determination of six species of North American shorebirds. J. Burton and R. McNeil. 1976 *Bird-Banding*, 47:201-209. (Characteristics of first and subsequent cycle primaries and secondaries are pictured and described; field reliability was tested.) LD

Sex ratio and sex determination of immature Brown-headed Cowbirds. R.A. Hill. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:112-114. (Sexing by plumage and wing cord measurements of 1,621 first-year Cowbirds was used to predict that about 90% of all Cowbirds could be sexed using only wing length.) LD

Hairy Woodpecker with broken upper mandible. D.W. Crumb. 1976. *Kingbird*, 26:91. (A female with about half the upper mandible missing trapped at feeding/banding station.) NC

Plumage notes on Nankeen Kestrels. G.P. Clancy. 1976. *Australian Bird Bander*, 14:47-49. (Suggests that wing covert markings may be useful in aging.) RD

Major North American Banding Results

Movements of color marked Brown Pelicans. R.W. Schreiber. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:101-111. (South Carolina and Florida-reared Brown Pelicans exhibited southward post-fledging dispersal. The marking technique is evaluated.) LD

Breeding and wintering areas of Canvasbacks harvested in various states and provinces. A.D. Geis. 1974. USDI Fish and Wildl. Serv., Spec. Sci. Rept. — Wildl. No. 185. 78 p. (The relationships among breeding, wintering, and harvest areas

were examined using banding data. — Available as Stock No. 562-015 from US Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401. RD

Population ecology of the Mallard. V. Temporal and geographic estimates of survival, recovery, and harvest rates. D.R. Anderson. 1975. USDI Fish and Wildl. Serv., Resource Publ. 125. 110 p. (Based on birds banded before the hunting season.) Available as Stock No. 830-880 from US Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. RD

Overland migration by Common Eiders of the St. Lawrence estuary. J. Gauthier, J. Bedard, and A. Reed. 1976. *Wilson Bull.*, 8:333-344. (Adult females comprised 97% of the 2,200 Eiders banded during 1963-1973. During 1972-1973, 1,400 were color-marked with patagial tags and sometimes streamers.) NC

Longevity record for the Whimbrel. M. Skeel. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:74. (Time between banding and recovery was 10 years and 5 days and is thought to be a record.) LD

Post-breeding movements and mortality in the Western Gull, *Larus occidentalis*. M.C. Coulter. 1975. *Condor*, 77:243-249. (Data obtained from September-March sightings and recoveries of birds banded or color-marked at colonies along northwestern Baja California, Mexico, California, and Oregon.) LD

An age record for Swainson's Warbler. J.S. Weske and D. Bridge. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:277. (Estimated minimal age of 5 years and 11 months is believed the record for the species.) LD

Blackbird banding results. J.A. Slimmon. 1975. *Blue Jay*, 33:163-164. (Of 915 Yellow-headed Blackbirds and 552 Red-winged Blackbirds banded near Saskatoon 1963-1974, only 6 Redwings have been recovered — one from Mexico, the rest near Saskatoon.) MM

Survival of House Sparrows and House Finches in Kern County, California. M.M. Milby and M.E. Wright. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:119-122. (Ten percent recapture of 8,791 banded birds provides an estimate that median survival time for House Finches is greater than that for House Sparrows.) LD

Recoveries and foreign retraps of birds banded at Island Beach, N.J. R.W. Foy. 1976. *Bird-Banding*, 47:214-230. (Topography and operation of a barrier beach banding station is described. Recovery details are listed for 67 species among about 250,000 total birds banded 1956-1972.) LD

Body size and longevity in birds. S.L. Lindstedt and W.A. Calder. 1976. *Condor*, 78:91-94. (Results of other workers are mathematically assembled to demonstrate that heavier species have greater longevity.) LD

Other North American Banding Results

Renesting by the Black-bellied Whistling Duck. D. Delnicki and E.G. Bolen. 1976. *Auk*, 93:535-542. (During incubation, adult birds were captured in nest boxes, banded, and individually marked with various color combinations of quick-drying aerosol spray on wing feathers. At least 19% renested.) NC

An experimental study of the behavior of Blue Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*). I. Differences between the founders from three populations. A.T. Bergerus and D.H. Hemus. 1975. *Can. J. Zool.*, 53:1222-1237. (Behavioral differences were retained in color-banded birds transplanted to smaller islands previously uninhabited by this species.) MM

Waterbird colonies of Long Island, New York, 3. Cedar Beach ternery. M. Gochfeld. 1976. *Kingbird*, 26:62-80. (About 300-1,000 young Common, Roseate, and Least Terns are banded annually.) NC

Burrowing Owls wintering in the Oklahoma Panhandle. K.O. Butts. 1976. *Auk*, 93:510-516 (Birds marked with colored plastic leg bands after capture by hand, after excavating burrows in which owls had found shelter or sought escape, and with weakened and padded size-0 steel traps.) NC

A montane hummingbird territorial system in Oaxaca, Mexico. D.L. Lyon. 1976. *Wilson Bull.*, 88:280-299. (During 1967-1969, 521 males and 153 females of 6 species were mist-netted around meadow edges where chases occurred. Various colors of "Pla" enamel were used to mark individuals.) NC

Comparative breeding ecology of phoebes in Trans-Pecos Texas. H.M. Ohlendorf. 1976. *Wilson Bull.*, 88:255-271. (Black and Say's Phoebes were caught with insect nets at roost sites or banded as nestlings; they were marked with colored plastic leg bands.) NC

A case of bigamy in the Florida Scrub Jay. G.E. Woolfenden, 1976. *Auk*, 93:443-450. (Color-band combinations used are unique for various age classes in this long-term population study.) NC

Behavioral interactions of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers. B.G. Murray, Jr. and F.B. Gill. 1976. *Wilson Bull.*, 88:231-254. (Warblers marked with two colored, plastic bands were studied for 3 years in Michigan. Birds were usually attracted to mist nets with models and tape-recorded songs.) NC

Reproductive rate and temporal spacing of nesting of Red-winged Blackbirds in upland habitat. R.A. Dolbeer. 1976. *Auk*, 93:343-355. (Nest traps, funnel traps, and mist nets were used to capture female redwings in Ohio; captured birds were marked with 2- x 1-cm colored vinyl strips attached to the leg.) NC

Territory, breeding density, and fall departure in Cassin's Finch, F.B. Samson. 1976. *Auk*, 93:477-497. (Mist-netted birds in Utah were marked with unique combinations of colored plastic leg bands.) NC

Seaside sparrow displays: Their function in social organization and habitat. W. Post, and J.S. Greenlaw. 1975. *Auk*, 92:461-492. (Color-banded birds were watched during three summers on Long Island, NY) NC

Foreign Banding Results

Bird-ringing results in Poland. Migration of the Starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*. L.M. Gromadzki and W. Kania. 1976. *Acta Ornithologica*, 15:279-321. (In English, with 23 maps, 2 figures, and 3 tables; a major paper on migration of distinct populations.) RD

Dispersal patterns of cormorants banded in south Australia. G.F. van Tets, M.H. Waterman, and D. Purchase. 1976. *Australian Bird Bander*, 14:43-46. (A total of 93,000 nestlings of five species were banded; recoveries totalling 1,990 are mapped.) RD

Blue-faced Honeyeater banding summary. F.J. Alexander. 1976. *Australian Bird Bander*, 14:52-53 (From recaptures of 28 banded birds, no correlation of facial color with age was established.) RD

Banding and recapture of wintering warblers in Haiti. C.A. Woods. 1975. *Bird-Banding*, 46:345-346. (Data for 10 species.) RD

CC = Charles T. Collins
LD = Lawrence R. DeWeese
MM = Martin K. McNicholl
NC = Noel J. Cutright
RD = Richard W. DeHaven

Letter to the Editor

The transformation from *EBBA News* and *Western Bird Bander* into *North American Bird Bander*, a very complex matter, is now complete. The first three issues were a roaring success!

Few of us are aware of the tremendous amount of work that goes into setting up one of these issues. During my January 1976 visit to Cave Creek, AZ, I was able to take a first-hand look at part of this work at Mrs. Eleanor Radke's home. How Mrs. Radke still finds time for birdbanding is beyond me. I realized then that my successor would have to be a very special kind of person, not only to take over an office plagued by inaccuracies, poor organization and growing pains (due to my own lack of time in the past year), but someone with perseverance, and infinite patience.

I did not know Nadia M. Mutchler before the 1976 EBBA Annual Meeting, nor did Mickie (as she likes to be called) know Eleanor Radke. This made things doubly difficult for both of us. Now that I've put the finishing touches on a 6½-year span in my life, during which I was indeed fortunate to be able to work for this fine organization, I've become

acquainted with Mickie and I am very much impressed. Though we've had our differences on various matters, I have grown very fond of her and I've come to respect her, and I hope you will too.

Ever since my plea for papers and notes in 1972, we have been blessed by a backlog of material. Few periodicals can make this boast. However, all this would be for nought if Mickie could not enjoy the same blessings. When you send in your papers and notes to be considered for publication, you're not sending them to Mickie or to Eleanor or to me; instead, you're sending them to your fellow banders and birders who make up the vast majority of the combined memberships.

Unfortunately, due to pressures at work and at home, my spare time does not allow me to be actively involved in NABB; nevertheless, I pledge my full cooperation and active assistance if it is needed. Being life member to both EBBA and WBBA, both associations deserve my very best.

Frederick S. Schaeffer
Former EBBA Editor

"215", The Bird House

AD

by Henry and Edna Koenig



After about 20 years of playing doctor and nurse to injured and orphaned birds, we were persuaded to record some of the exciting highlights in a book.

The first patient was a male Cardinal, followed through the next few years by a small number of other species, with an ever increasing number as our "fame" spread. The total species is now 88 and the count reached over a hundred individuals the last few years.

Those who are interested in birds tell us it is a book you can't put down once you start to read it.

It all started with a bird feeder back in 1949. Since then, the authors, life-long residents of Sauk City, Wisconsin, have fed and cared for tens of thousands of birds at their home. The book is a written account and photographic record of their care, feeding, and observations of the 83 species represented.

Price: \$6.95, plus .25 postage.

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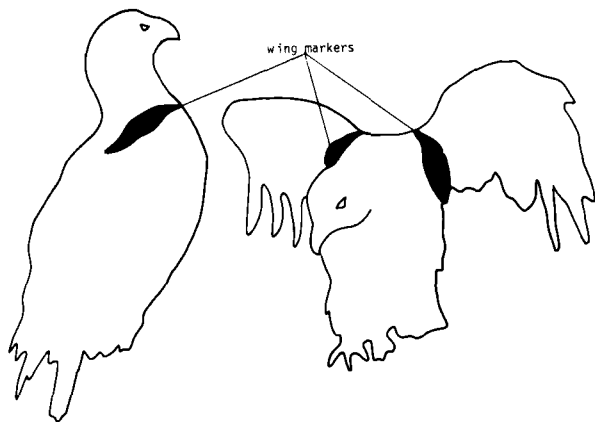
Ask your local book dealer
to order for you.

Information exchange

Readers are welcome to submit requests for assistance on any facet of study relating to banding. We will be happy to publish lists of banders' projects (including graduate student projects), requests for data on a particular species, sightings of color-marked birds, etc.

Color-marked Bald Eagles

The research personnel at the University of Washington and Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo have released Bald Eagles wearing colored vinyl markers in the Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Area. These eagles have been marked in order to determine the movements of the Bald Eagle population that winters in the Skagit Valley. The colored markers are visible from the rear and sides of a perching bird, and from above and below a flying bird. Marker colors are orange, pink, yellow, or pumpkin orange.



Information needed: Location of bird; date of sighting; activity of bird; and name and address of observer. Please send information to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bird Banding Laboratory, Washington, D.C. 20240, with a copy to Walter English, Woodland Park Zoo, 5500 Phinney Ave., N, Seattle, WA 98103.

Color-marked Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers

In 1976 and 1977 the Surinam Forest Service plans to color-band large numbers of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers along the Surinam coast, in northeastern South America. All birds will be banded *above* the tarsus ("knee") with one standard aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service band and two orange color-bands of about the same size as the aluminum band.

The objective of this study is to obtain more information about the origin of the birds visiting Surinam and about their migration routes to and from this country.

Should you see any of these birds, please notify the Bird Banding Laboratory, with a copy to: Arie L. Spaans, Surinam Forest Service, P.O. Box 436, Paramaribo, Surinam, South America. Please give species, location and date of observation, the position of the aluminum and color-bands (left or right; and, if more than one band is on a leg, which band is above and which below), and number of color-banded birds involved.

Purple Martin color-marking

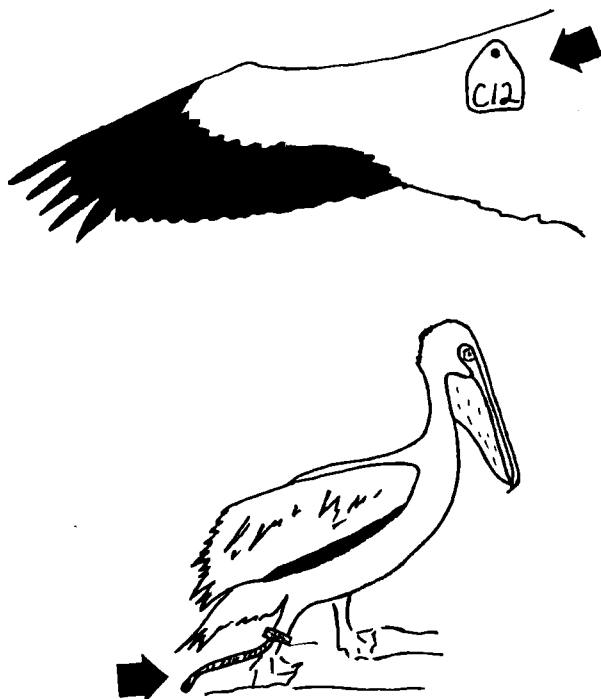
A large-scale Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) color-marking project was initiated in 1975 for Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, Maryland and in 1976 for Saxis, Virginia. Observers are asked to look for and report any color-marked (wing tags and/or plastic leg bands) Purple Martins.

Please record the color of the band, which leg it is on, age, and/or sex (if either is known), where and when observed, and whether the bird was in a roost, staging flock, migratory flock, or established at a nest site. We are especially interested in the movements of young birds and their return rate to the parent colony or nearby colonies. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to Ms. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, 13117 Larchdale Rd. #2, Laurel, Md. 20811 and to the Bird Banding Laboratory as requested in NABB 1:2.

Color-marked White Pelicans from Oregon

White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) were banded in Warner Valley, southeastern Oregon, during July 1976. These birds may be encountered during migration to, from, or on wintering grounds in central California and Mexico.

Each pelican has a Fish and Wildlife Service leg band on the right leg and a yellow patagial tag on each wing. One letter and two numerals (in black) identify the individual's tags.



If you have an opportunity to observe any color-marked pelicans, I would appreciate the following information: (1) Date of sighting; (2) Location and remarks of interest; (3) Color of streamer, whether attached to right or left leg, presence or absence of patagial tags, identification letter and numbers if possible.

This is the fifth summer that pelicans were banded and color-marked in Oregon. There is a possibility

that birds from previous years may be encountered as well. Prior to 1976, pelicans were marked as follows: 1972 — right leg with a lavender streamer; 1973 — left leg with a blue streamer; 1974 — right leg with a blue streamer; and 1975 — left leg with a lavender streamer and a yellow patagial tag on each wing.

Please report sightings to Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, MD 20810; and to Steven L. Elephant, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, 104 Nash Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Color banded Long-billed Curlews

Both adult and juvenile Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*) have been banded with red, yellow, green, or light blue plastic leg bands (and with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal leg bands) in the Columbia Basin of southeastern Washington. The bands are the same size as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands and are placed on the opposite leg. They each have a black number (from 1 to 100) printed on them and are visible on standing or perching birds.

Status, behavior, migration, and territory selection are several of the more important points being studied.

Should you see any of these birds, please write: Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20811. Include date, time of day, and location of the observation — plus name of observer(s), color of band, and if possible, the number printed on the band. Also include the activity of the bird at the time of sighting, the type of habitat it was sighted in (e.g., grassland, mudflats along a lake, etc.), and the number of other curlews associated with the marked individual(s).

Julia N. Fitzner
Batelle-Northwest Laboratories, P.O. Box 999,
Richland, WA 993521