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## Recent Literature

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### Banding Equipment and Techniques

**Age determination of Blue Jays.** W.A. Lamb, A.H. Kelley and S.M. Cohen. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 215-217. (A key based on 92 records of known-age Blue Jays is presented for aging the species: bill pigmentation, covert color and time of year are the most useful characteristics.) LD

**A method for aging female Yellow-headed Blackbirds.** R.D. Crawford and W.L. Hohman. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49:201-207. (Second year females can be separated from older females by amount and intensity of yellow on the chin, face, and breast. The method is based on data from 21 known-age female Yellow-headed Blackbirds.) LD

**Sexing Ring-billed Gulls externally.** J.P. Ryder. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49:218-222. (Length of gonys can be used to determine sex of Ring-billed Gulls in the hand with 95% accuracy.) LD

**New and modified method for color-marking hummingbirds.** W.H. Baltosser. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49:47-49. (Preparation and attachment of a solid but flexible back-tag which is not easily preened out is described for 5 species of hummingbirds. An easy method for holding the birds is illustrated.) LD

**A simple trap for capturing nesting Wilson's Phalaropes.** C.M. Kagarise. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 28-29. (A method is described of placing a hoop net over the nest and of flushing the returned male into the net.) LD

**Comparison of trapping method for American Coots.** R.D. Crawford. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48:309-313. (Design and construction of nest traps, night-lighting, bait traps, drive traps, and car-pull traps are presented, and notes on effects of trap placement, time of setting, length of time trap set, number of birds captured, and injuries sustained are discussed.) LD

### Identification, Molts, and Plumages

**Historical aspects of hybridization between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers.** F.B. Gill. 1980. *Auk* 97:1-18. (268 specimens previously collected from southern Conn. were examined. A

general replacement of Golden-wings by Blue-wings within 50 years of initial interaction is apparent. The decline of Golden-wings may be due to habitat changes, competition from Blue-wings and/or destruction of the genotype through introgressive hybridization.) NC

**Analysis of hybridization between the hirundi-nid genera *Hirundo* and *Petrochelidon* in Texas.** R.F. Martin. 1980. *Auk* 97:148-159. (New data are presented and integrated with other evidence in support of merging *Petrochelidon* with *Hirundo*.) NC

**The identification of North American Accipit-ers.** H.C. Mueller, D.D. Berger, and G. Allez. 1979. *Amer. Birds* 33:236-240. (Based on banding of 6000+ Accipiters and thousands more sightings, authors conclude that size is the best method, with gray-barred breast of adult Goshawk and zig-zag barring of tail of immature Goshawk the only reliable plumage characters.) MM

### North American Banding Results

**Premigratory fat in the American Kestrel.** J.A. Gessaman. 1979. *Wilson Bull.* 91:625-626. (23 Bal-chatri-trapped birds were weighed, sacrificed and analyzed for body fat. The pattern of seasonal changes in fat levels was typical of a migrant.) NC

**Reproductive success of Peregrine Falcons and other raptors at Wager Bay and Melville Peninsula, Northwest Territories.** G.W. Calef and D.C. Heard. 1979. *Auk* 96:662-674. (36 chicks from 14 nests were banded and color-marked with a black plastic band with white numbering. One bird was later captured on North Padre Island, Tex.) NC

**A quantitative study of the behavior of breeding American Coots.** M.R. Ryan and J.J. Dinsmore. 1979. *Auk* 96:704-713. (Individuals were identified by alphanumerically coded nasal discs, by distinct white feathering on various parts of the body, or by the unique shape of the callus.) NC

**Competitive interactions and adaptive strategies of American Redstarts and Least Flycatchers in a northern hardwoods forest.** T.W. Sherry. 1979.

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Edited by Martin K. McNicholl

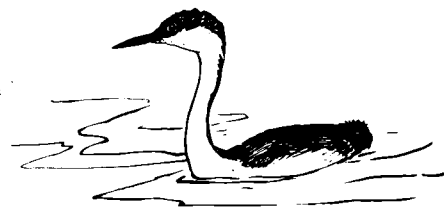
Auk 96:265-283. (Data on population sizes, patterns of dispersion, modes of food exploitation, and nesting ecology were collected on color-marked individuals. The 2 species exhibit considerable interspecific aggression during the breeding season. Coexistence is mediated by subtle habitat preferences and reinforced by interspecific aggression and by differences in life history. The redstart is a broad-niched, behaviorally plastic, socially subordinate habitat generalist in comparison with the flycatcher.) NC

**Male characteristics and pairing success in Red-winged Blackbirds.** W.A. Searcy. 1979. *Auk* 96:353-363. (Males were captured in decoy traps and color-banded. Weak evidence indicates that large size, experience, good physiological condition, and ability to devote time to territory defense contribute to pairing success. Strong correlations between success and male characteristics should not be expected.) NC

**Effects of human disturbance on breeding of Black-crowned Night Herons.** J. Tremblay and L.N. Ellison. 1979. *Auk* 96:364-369. (Young in nests were identified by wrapping colored tape around the tarsus. Nestlings older than 10 days were banded with 3 colored plastic bands. Visits to the colony reduced nesting success.) NC

**Effect of prey on predation: voles and harriers.** F. Hamerstrom. 1979. *Auk* 96:370-374. (Breeding harriers were trapped and marked with colored feathers. Nesting in central Wis. was linked strongly to vole abundance during 3 of 4 peak years within a 16-year period.) NC

**The use of space by White-crowned Sparrows: juvenile and adult ranging patterns and home range versus body size comparisons in an avian granivore community.** M.C. Baker and L.R. Mewaldt. 1979. *Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol.* 6:45-52. (From over 12000 captures of *Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli* since 1966, young from earlier broods were found to breed closer to their hatch site than those from later broods, and both sexual and seasonal differences were found among the adults. Discussion includes a comparison of the home range in four other passerine species, and the relationship between home range size and body size.) MM



**Old cowbird breeding records from the Great Plains region.** P.E. Lowther. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48:358-369. (Data from an egg collection at the University of Kansas showed the occurrence and intensity of cowbird parasitism to be similar to that reported by other workers. Egg size increased with season. Host specialization was not correlated with egg dimensions.) LD

**Movement and migration patterns of Red-winged Blackbirds: a continental overview.** R.A. Dolbeer. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49:17-34. (About 11000 recoveries indicated that most redwings migrated short distances (<200 km) until after the October molt was complete. Breeding populations from widely divergent areas intermingled during the winter-roost period. Nearly all birds returned to within 50 km of their hatching sites.) LD

**Analysis of a resident flock of Starlings.** H.B. Suthers. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49:35-46. (Population density was determined by availability of roost-nest cavities. Banded residents of the New Jersey study areas lived either near the band site or far away; feeding flock composition changed constantly. Young banded birds had a balanced sex ratio, but females experienced a greater mortality rate. Notable age characteristics were hackle wear, fading of the iris ring in females, and acquisition of an iris ring in males.) LD

**Mortality rates for Black-bellied Whistling Ducks.** E.G. Bolen and R.E. McCamant. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48:350-353. (Band recovery data were interpreted to suggest that the annual mortality rate of the Tex. population of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks is 46-52%. Female mortality was higher, but this difference was not statistically significant.) LD

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**Migration patterns of northern Idaho and eastern Washington Ospreys.** W.R. Melquist, D.R. Johnson, and W.D. Carrier. 1978. *Bird-Banding* 49: 234-236. (Young Ospreys banded in the title area were recovered as far south as Central America. 8 of 14 recovered were reported shot.) LD

**Radial dispersal and southward migration of Wood Ducks banded in Vermont.** P.A. Stewart. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48:333-336. (Recoveries of 1403 Wood Ducks banded in Vermont were mapped to show southward post-breeding movement along areas with swampy habitat.) LD

**Age and survival of breeding Leach's Storm-Petrels in Maine.** D.H. Morse and C.W. Buckheister. 1977. *Bird-Banding* 48:341-349. (Over 1500 nesting birds were banded on Matinicus Rock, Maine from 1955 to 1975. Some birds achieved old age, with mean annual survival of breeders at least 78.9% and mean life expectancy after breeding of at least 4.2 years.) LD

**Hérons, cormorants and gulls — where do they go?** G. Hogan. 1980. *Prince Edward Island Nat. Hist. Soc. Newsletter* No. 46:10-12. (Recoveries of Great Blue Herons, Double-crested and Great Cormorants, and Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls banded on Prince Edward Island 1973-1978.) MM

### Foreign Banding Results

**Behavior and breeding of the White-bearded Flycatcher (*Conopias inornata*).** B.T. Thomas. 1979. *Auk* 96:767-775. (Birds were captured in mist nets and marked with colored plastic bands during the breeding season in Venezuela.) NC

**Diet and breeding seasonality among a population of Sharp-tailed Munias, *Lonchura striata*, in Malaysia.** M.L. Avery. 1980. *Auk* 97:160-166. (1787 munias were banded in 295 days of mist-netting.) NC

**Notes on little known birds of the upper Uru-bamba Valley, southern Peru.** T.A. Parker III and J.P. O'Neill. 1980. *Auk* 97:167-176. (Mist nets were set up in openings cut into forest and in forest understory.) NC

**Breeding and feeding of Galapagos Mockingbirds, *Nesomimus parvulus*.** P.R. Grant and N. Grant. 1979. *Auk* 96:723-736. (Mockingbirds caught in mist nets were weighed, measured, and color-banded. Cooperative behavior was noted within families.) NC

**Avian extinctions in an isolated tropical wet-forest preserve, Ecuador.** C.F. Leck. 1979. *Auk* 96: 343-352. (Mistnetting was used to assist in the determination of species presence and status.) NC

**Structure and dynamics of interspecific flocks in a neotropical mid-elevation forest.** G.V.N. Powell. 1979. *Auk* 96:375-390. (734 birds of 42 species of forest understory birds were caught in mist nets and color-banded.) NC

### Non-Bird Banding Results

**Southern Flying Squirrel caught in mist net.** A. Kurta. 1979. *Jack-Pine Warbler* 57:170. (The capture occurred over water. Four additional unpublished reports of flying squirrels caught in mist nets are given.) NC

Note: Thanks to L. Richard Mewaldt for drawing my attention to a reference in a non-ornithological journal. Banders publishing their results in journals not regularly abstracted are invited to send reprints for abstracting. MM

NC = Noel J. Cutright  
LD = Lawrence R. DeWeese  
MM = Martin K. McNicholl



**The birds and birders of Beaverhills Lake**, by Robert Lister, Edmonton Bird Club, Box 4441, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4T5, Canada. 1979. 264 pp. \$9.50 Canadian (proceeds to Canadian Nature Federation).

Beaverhills Lake has long been a Mecca to Alberta, and especially Edmonton, naturalists. In this book Bob Lister chronicles his visits there and those of numerous acquaintances from 1920 to 1977, with additional notes on earlier history. Although much of the book is based on the notes of Lister's long-time employer, the late William Rowan, the style and interpretation are decidedly Lister's. The last few chapters are based on experiences of members of the Edmonton Bird Club and other naturalists.

While all of the book will be of interest to naturalists, bird banders especially will be entertained by chapters 2, 4, and 5 in which Rowan's grandiose banding attempts are detailed. Rowan, famous for his experiments on the influence of light on migration, was eccentric in many ways, one of his more amusing characteristics being a love of publicity. Thus, when Rowan and Lister managed to use up their 25 available bands within 10 minutes in a Franklin's Gull colony, Rowan planned a major banding spree, complete with a crew of 14 and a newspaper reporter. The reporter's version of the episode, together with Lister's comments, differs markedly from Rowan's official version, published in *Wilson Bull.* 39:44-49, 1927. Banders will shudder at the lost bands and the disruption to the colony.

Similarly, one reads with amusement the many episodes surrounding attempts to capture Common Crows, using everything from rotten eggs to young Great Horned Owls as bait, and with all manner of traps and nets used. Ever hungry for publicity, Rowan housed his crows in conspicuous cages under the only bridge then in Edmonton, and once organized a drive of crows into nets outside a church just in time for the emergence of the congregation. And one senses Lister's frustration at Rowan's stubborn tenacity to his own theories regardless of the evidence provided by banding returns.

This book is an important contribution to both the

natural history and the history of natural history on the prairie provinces of Canada. I recommend it highly and especially advise it as preparatory reading for those intending to take the field trip to Beaverhills Lake during the 1981 American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Edmonton.

Martin K. McNicholl

**A bibliography of British Columbia ornithology.** Volume 1. R. Wayne Campbell, Harry R. Cater, Christopher D. Shepard, and Charles Guiguet. 1979. British Columbia Provincial Museum Heritage Record No. 7., Victoria. 185 pp. \$4.00 Canadian.

This is a list of 2100 publications on the birds of British Columbia, together with three indices — one to authors, one to bird species by current common name, and one to areas of the province by a grid system. Although the authors state that books, bibliographies, book reviews, and articles with simple lists of birds and records of individual sightings are excluded, several books are in fact listed, as are articles documenting individual sightings of rarities. Some obvious journals, notably *Western Birds*, were not searched, but these are presumably to be included in a subsequent volume. Many unpublished manuscripts in the provincial museum or in various provincial and federal government files are included, thus greatly adding to the value of the compilation.

The book is almost free of errors (I discovered only one), and is pleasantly illustrated with drawings of birds by an unnamed artist. The list is in no logical order, but the indices should direct the user to pertinent material. Although not the type of book that many will wish to read, this is an extremely valuable compilation, and should be of use not only to ornithologists of British Columbia, but also to those of the west coast generally and the states, province and territory bordering British Columbia. As many banding references are included, banders in western North America analyzing movements of a particular species will find this a useful shortcut into relevant literature.

Martin K. McNicholl