
Recent Literature

Edited by Martin K. McNicholl

Banding equipment and techniques

The use of total head length (head and bill length) for sexing gulls. C.S. Thomas. 1981. *Gull Study Group Bull.* No. 3:1-3. (Total head length was found accurate to 92% in determining sex of Herring Gulls in a British population, as compared with 90% accuracy for bill depth and 84% for bill length. An apparatus for measuring head length is diagrammed.) MM

Body weight changes of male and female Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus* L.). A. Sexing of Black-headed Gulls. J. Paulussen. 1981. *Gull Study Group Bull.* No. 3:16-17. (Total head length allows determination of sex of 75% of adults. A discriminant analysis formula for determining sex is given. Abstract only.) MM

Identification, molts, and plumages

A comparative analysis of the bill markings of Whistling and Bewick's Swans and out-of-range occurrences of the two taxa. M.E. Evans and W.J.L. Sladen. 1980. *Auk* 97:697-703. (Over 3000 Whistling Swans were captured for neck and/or tarsal banding between 1967 and 1976. Most were captured by cannon-nets or baited wire traps. A few were captured on their breeding grounds when molting.) NC

A description of moult in male Mallards. D.A. Young and D.A. Boag. 1981. *Can. J. Zool.* 59:252-259. (Seven discrete molt classes, based on feather replacement in various pterygiae, are described, and pattern and sequence of feather replacement is documented.) MM

North American banding results

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) mortality in an urban winter roost. D.M. Johnson, G.L. Stewart, M. Corley, R. Ghrist, J. Hagner, A. Kettere, B. McDonnell, W. Newsom, E. Owen, and P. Samuels. 1980. *Auk* 97:299-320. (Decoy traps were used during a bird banding program. Sex and age determinations were based on plumage. Weight and other measurements also were recorded.) NC

Water dependence of birds in a temperate oak woodland. P.L. Williams and W.D. Koenig. 1980. *Auk* 97:339-350. (Birds were captured in mist nets and Glenhaven Four-celled sparrow traps. Some species were color-banded.) NC

Little Blue Heron breeding behavior. J.A. Rodgers, Jr. 1980. *Auk* 97:371-384. (Nestlings were banded and were marked with individually numbered, colored leg streamers.) NC

Demography of European Mute Swans in Chesapeake Bay. J.G. Reese. 1980. *Auk* 97:449-464. (422 swans have been banded and marked with coded plastic neck and tarsal bands since 1971. Neck bands can be read as far away as 350 m through a 30-40 x spotting scope. Most of the data are based on 12,000 resightings of marked swans.) NC

Inland morning flight behavior of nocturnal passerine migrants in eastern New York. V.P. Bingham. 1980. *Auk* 97:465-472. (Direction of morning flight was independent of wind direction, with birds flying relatively fixed northeast (spring) — southwest (fall) paths.) NC

Sex ratio of Western Gulls on Santa Barbara Island, California. G.L. Hunt, Jr., J.C. Wingfield, A. Newman, and D.S. Farner. 1980. *Auk* 97:473-479. (Gulls were captured with cannon nets or baited walk-in traps. Adult sex ratio was 0.67 males per female.) NC

Use of space by Lapland Longspurs breeding in arctic Alaska. P.R. Tryon and S.F. MacLean. 1980. *Auk* 97:509-520. (Unique sets of colored bands were used to mark individuals.) NC

Fecundity of the Brown-headed Cowbird in southern Ontario. D.M. Scott and C.D. Ankney. 1980. *Auk* 97:677-683. (Females were collected by shooting and netting.) NC

Growth of nestling Ipswich Sparrows in relation to season, habitat, brood size, and parental age. A.H. Ross. 1980. *Auk* 97:721-732. (Individuals were marked with colored thread tied around the leg at hatching, and then banded at 7 days.) NC

Territory size differences in relation to reproductive stage and type of intruder in Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*). J. Burger. 1980. *Auk* 97:733-741. (Gulls were color-marked by suspending a cup filled with dye from a small frame over the nest. A string tied to the cup allowed the dye to be dumped on the gull when it resumed incubation.) NC

History of Richardson's Merlin in Saskatchewan. C. S. Houston and A. Schmidt. 1981. *Blue Jay* 39:30-37. (Including bandings.) MM

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NC = Noel Cutright

MM = Martin K. McNicholl

Calgary area bluebird trails — 1980. D. Stiles. 1981. *Blue Jay* 39:46-48. (Two Mountain Bluebird and 4 Tree Swallow recaptures are consistent with earlier postulate of H. Pinel that young tend to disperse, adults to return to same box area.) MM

High mortality of Great Gray Owls in Manitoba — winter 1980-81. R.W. Nero and H.W.R. Copland. 1981. *Blue Jay* 39:158-165. (Band returns showed that most of the birds comprising the heaviest concentration yet known in southern Man., were local birds or from adjacent Minn., with none from a heavily banded population 42-50 miles (67-80 km) north. An unusually high population of immatures was found in the concentration, from which 24 new birds were banded, bringing the authors' total to 338.) MM

Owl banding. J. MacLeod. 1981. *Blue Jay* 39:189. (Account by school student of 18 Great Horned Owls banded by C.S. Houston.) MM

Trails of success: the Mountain Bluebird in southern Alberta. G.A. Chalmers. 1981. *Alta. Nat.* 11:4-9. (171 young bluebirds were banded in 1980. Recommends banding young between 6 and 14 days of age, to prevent premature fledging, and cautions against suffocation of young after replacement in the box.) MM

Early concentrations of Brown Pelicans along southern Oregon coast. C.J. Henny and J.A. Collins. 1980. *Murrelet* 61:99-100. (Includes an observation at Rogue River, OR of a bird banded in Mexico.) MM

Annual report to banders — summary of bird banding in Canada in 1979. C. Hyslop and R.M. Poulin. 1981. *Can. Wildl. Serv. Progress Notes* No. 125. 12 pp. (Tabulates numbers of banders, total birds, non-game birds and game birds banded in each province and territory, as well as the three most frequently banded game and non-game species, and totals for each species in each jurisdiction. New features are a table of birds banded with status other than 300 and a table of ratios of young to adults of species with 100 or more banded in each of 1977, 1978, and 1979.) MM

1981 owl banding assisted by Saskatchewan Power Corporation. M. Zeldin. 1981. *Blue Jay* 39:228-220. (Young Great Horned Owls were banded at a nest 21.3 m above ground on a power pole, the highest nest of 1313 known to C.S. Houston, who banded 407 Great Horned Owls in 1981.) MM

Foreign banding results

Geographical variation in the avifaunas of tropical forest undergrowth J.R. Karr. 1980. *Auk* 97:283-298. (Sampling was performed with mist nets in Panama, Costa Rica, Liberia, Ghana, Kenya, India, and Malasia.) NC

Seventeen bird species new to Peru from the Pampas de Heath. G.L. Graham, G.R. Graves, T.S. Schulenberg, and J.P. O'Neill. 1980. *Auk* 97:366-370. (Some of the new species were captured in mist nets.) NC

Aspects of the annual cycle in highland populations of the Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*. P. Handford. 1980. *Auk* 97:400-403. (408 birds were netted and trapped.) NC

Preliminary observations on the occurrence and evolution of polyandry in the Galapagos Hawk (*Buteo galapagoensis*). J. Faaborg, T. de Vries, C.B. Patterson, and C.R. Griffin. 1980. *Auk* 97:581-590. (Hawks were captured in balchatri traps with rats or goat carcasses as bait.) NC

Natural breeding of *Accipiter fasciatus* in captivity. J. Olsen and P. Olsen. 1981. *Raptor Res.* 15:53-57. (Banded young Brown Goshawks raised in captivity returned for food for 2 weeks to 2 months after release. A male was hit by a car 960 km away from the release site 9 months later.) MM

Gull ringing near Hindley. I.M. Spence. 1981. *Gull Study Group Bull.* No. 3:4-8. (Banding of several gull species caught in a clap net at a garbage dump in Great Britain, with preliminary results on ageing, molt, and recoveries.) MM

Yellow-legged Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus* ssp.) breeding in North-Germany. H. Kuschert. 1981. *Gull Study Group Bull.* No. 3:9. (Morphological features and measurements and two banding recoveries suggest that inland nesting Herring Gulls in northern Germany come from the Baltic.) MM

The behavior of radio-tagged Herring Gulls at Walney Island during the incubation season. R. Sibley and R. McCleery. 1981. *Gull Study Group Bull.* No. 3:11-12. (Radio-tagging showed that Herring Gulls never fed at night and exhibited distinct individual feeding habits and provided data on time spent feeding at different food sources — abstract only.) MM