

Ontario Bird Banding Association

The Ontario Bird Banding Association (OBBA), founded in 1956, is a member-directed, voluntary organization with over 100 household and institutional members in Canada, the United States, and Europe. The objectives of the Association are the study of ornithology, especially by means of banding and other marking techniques; the promotion of ornithological investigations and the publication of scientific and educational papers pertaining to these subjects, particularly within the province of Ontario; and cooperation with organizations with similar objectives.

Over the years, the OBBA has undertaken a wide variety of successful projects. In 1960, the Association founded the Long Point Bird Observatory which went on to become the largest independent, non-profit research organization undertaking volunteer-based bird studies in Canada.

The OBBA has helped in the establishment of, and retains close ties with, several other bird observatories in Ontario, the most recent being the Cabot Head Bird Observatory on the Bruce Peninsula.

The annual journal, *Ontario Bird Banding*, and the Newsletter, published three times a year, are cited publications containing much scientific and general interest information, and our members consistently give positive feedback on the quality of the speakers at our annual meetings.

You are invited to join the OBBA and find out what the banding community in Ontario is doing. The annual Household Membership is twenty dollars; for Students it is only ten dollars. Send your check or money order to:

Ernie Rogers, Membership Secretary
1320 Mississauga Valley Boulevard
Suite 804
Mississauga, Ontario L5A 3S9

Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

A tribute to Frank Douwes. T. Oatley. 1996. *Safring News* 25:47-48. SAFRING, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosche 7700, South Africa (Brief biography of a South African bander who started banding in 1983 and banded about 1100 birds per year at a fixed site until falling ill in December 1995, shortly before his death in early 1996. Douwes was known for his technique of measuring pelvic gape to determine sex in species in which sexes appear identical.) MKM

A tribute to Ray Salt. J. Park. 1996. *Edmonton Nat.* 24(3):6-7. c/o Edmonton Nat. Hist. Soc., Box 1582, Edmonton, Alta. T5J 2N9 (Brief biography of author of first three editions of "Birds of Alberta," whose studies on cloacal protuberance led to important sex determination technique). MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Comparison of flag sightings versus recoveries from waders marked in Victoria, Australia. C. Minton. 1996. *Stilt* 29:39. 165 Dalgerty Rd., Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia (Recaptures of shorebirds color-flagged and banded in Victoria indicate that 90% of flags are retained for at least three years. Of 27,043 shorebirds banded and 17,079 color-flagged in Victoria between 1990 and 1995, reporting rates of flagged birds outside Australia have been 17 times higher than those of banded birds, while reporting rates from other Australian states have been 39 times higher for flagged birds.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

A beginner's guide to dark-mantled gulls in Illinois. P. C. Petersen. 1994. *Meadowlark* 3:51-54. Author deceased. (Review of features differentiating Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-

backed, Slaty-backed and Western gulls, primarily in adult plumage, with comments on variation within species, and shorter discussions of differences among younger birds of these species. Tables summarize size in comparison with Herring Gull and adult plumage features, while the text includes notes on leg color and errors or misleading points in field guides.) MKM

A colour variant of the Fox Sparrow. G. Fairfield. 1998. *Ont. Birds* 16:146-147. 332 Sheldrake Blvd., Toronto, Ont. M4P 2B8 (Larger individual than adjacent normally colored "Red Fox Sparrow" with head reddish-brown, as bright as tail, and reddish-brown neck and throat.) MKM

Ageing and sexing of the African Citril. S. Lane. 1996. *Safring News* 25:28-30. Box 51147, Limbe, Malawi (Description of variation in plumage of southernmost race [*Serinus citrinelloides hypostictus*], based on 261 birds examined in the hand, including 52 re-examinations of 37 individuals. Effects of ageing on plumage are noted and juvenile plumages compared with those of adults. Comments on "soft parts" are included, and ranges given for wing, culmen, tarsus and tail lengths and mass.) MKM

Ageing and sexing of European Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. W. Scott. 1996. *Safring News* 25:30. Box 2680, Potchefstroom 2520, South Africa (Plumage differences between adult and juvenile Barn Swallows; plumage and measurement differences between sexes of adults.) MKM

Weights and pre-migratory mass gain of the Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* in Victoria, Australia. K. G. Rogers, D. I. Rogers and C. D. T. Minton. 1996. *Stilt* 29:2-23. 340 Ninks Rd., St. Andrews, Vic. 3761, Australia (Mass obtained from 18,304 coastal captures of non-breeding stints indicate that adults are relatively light on arrival in southern Australia for austral summer, regain weight slightly after arrival, retain this new weight through austral summer, then gradually increase weight slightly before undergoing more rapid weight gain prior to northern departure. Timing of weight gain varies among individuals. Immature birds show less weight gain and remain in Australia over austral winter, when slight weight gains may be related to local movements. Data are presented

over season by location and year and in relation to primary molt score.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Changes in numbers of land birds counted in migration at Long Point Bird Observatory, 1961-1997. C. M. Francis and D. J. T. Hussell. 1997-1998. *Bird Populations* 4:37-66. Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0 (Mist-netting/banding totals contributed to daily estimates of 64 species migrating through the Long Point area. These estimates indicate a decrease in many species 1961-1988, followed by an increase in most of them through 1997. Indications of increases were correlated with Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data for the same species in Ontario, but the migration monitoring estimates were more positive than those from BBS, suggesting either a bias of one of the sampling techniques or that the techniques sampled different populations. Declines in nine species continued throughout the sample period.) MKM

The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program sixth and seventh annual report (1995 and 1996). D. F. DeSante, D. R. O'Grady, K. M. Burton, P. Velez, D. Froehlich, E. E. Feuss, H. Smith and E. D. Ruhlen. 1997-1998. *Bird Populations* 4:69-122. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 (Population trends derived from constant-effort banding data from 410 stations across North America largely agree with trends derived from Breeding Bird Survey data. Regional patterns are presented, along with estimates of regional annual adult survival and productivity indices.) MKM

Saskatchewan's first Swainson's Hawk with satellite radio. C. S. Houston and K. I. Fung. 1999. *Blue Jay* 57:69-72. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0J8 (Map of flight of adult from Kindersley, Saskatchewan, south to Argentina and back north to Saskatchewan, with details of daily distances flown.) MKM

Longevity record for Northwestern Crow, with a comparison to other corvids. F. C. Zwickel and N. A. M. Verbeek. 1997. *Northwest. Nat.* 78:111-112. Box 81, Mansons Landing, B.C. V0P 1K0

(Banded probable female crow observed at a feeder for three consecutive winters was >16 years 4 months when last confirmed by telescope band reading and >16 years 9 months old when last seen, exceeding both the previous 12 year 10 month longevity record for this species and the previous 14 year 7 month record for any North American crow species. Longevity records of other corvids are also summarized.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Status of seabirds in the Isles of Scilly. P. Robinson. 1994. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 68:2-3. c/o The Seabird Group, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, England (3,325 seabirds were banded from 1991 to 1993 on these British islands, including 2400 European Storm-Petrels. A constant re-trap ratio among the storm-petrels of 7% suggested that a population of 10,000 was more likely than the previously estimated 1,000. An incubating Northern Fulmar captured on Round Island in 1993 had been banded as a chick on nearby Little Saltee Island in 1980. Eight storm-petrels had been banded in Brittany, France, and a Common Tern banded in the Scilly islands in July 1991 was recovered in Ghana that summer.) MKM

Selected recoveries reported to Safring: July 1995 - December 1995. T. B. Oatley. 1996. *Safring News* 25:31-38. SAFRING, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosche 7700, South Africa (Recoveries of 51 species within Africa or between Africa and Atlantic Ocean islands, Australia, or Europe. Species known to occur in North America include Wandering and Shy albatrosses, Cory's Shearwater, European Storm-Petrel, Common Moorhen, Black-bellied Plover, Ruff, and Caspian, Common, Arctic and Sandwich terns. Of particular interest is an Arctic Tern found dead when at least 31 years old.) MKM

Population changes on constant effort sites 1994-95. D. Balmer and W. Peach. 1996. *BTO News* 203:10-11, reprinted in *Bird Populations* 4:145-149, 1997-1998. British Trust for Ornithol., Natl. Centre for Ornithol., The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU, U.K. (Capture rates in constant-effort mist-netting sites were high in 1995, with significant increases in several species,

evidence of successful early breeding by some, and overall high breeding success in others, although some continue to decline.) MKM

The poorest breeding season on record: population changes on constant effort sites 1995-96. D. Balmer and W. Peach. 1997. *BTO News* 208:8-9, reprinted in *Bird Populations* 4:187-190, 1997-1998. British Trust for Ornithol., Natl. Centre for Ornithol., The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU, U.K. (Although adult capture rates at constant-effort netting sites in 1996 remained stable, with increases in some species, a significant decline in juveniles of several species indicated poor breeding success.) MKM

Notes on the corroboree behaviour of the New Holland Honeyeater. D. C. McFarland. 1995. *Corella* 19:51-54. 15 Currong St., Kenmore, Qld. 4069, Australia (Numbers of birds caught per net hour were used to measure general degree of activity over the year in comparison with a display involving congregations of males, and color-banding helped differentiate resident from transient males.) MKM

Abundance, site fidelity, morphometrics and sex ratios of Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta* at a site in south-east Queensland. S. J. M. Blaber. *Corella* 19:55-60. 33 Wuduru Rd., Cornubia, Qld. 4130, Australia (Constant-effort mist-netting was used to determine seasonal abundance patterns from 1986 to 1993 and bands helped sort residents from apparent transients. Measurements are tabulated by sex for wing, tail, and tarsal lengths, as well as mass, showing some overlap, but with males usually significantly larger in all measurements than females, and heavier.) MKM

Use of the Jolly-Seber model to detect variation in survival, population size and recruitment of Bridled Honeyeaters at Paluma, Queensland. E. B. Dettman. 1995. *Corella* 19:61-67. Aust. Bird & Bat Band. Schemes, Australian Nature Conserv. Agency, Box 8, Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia (Based on capture histories of 184 birds captured in mist-nets and banded, with critique of other methods of estimating survival.) MKM

Observations of a breeding pair of Buff-rumped Thornbills *Acanthiza reguloides*. K. A. Wood. 1995. *Corella* 19:68-69. 7 Eastern Ave., Mangerton, NSW 2500, Australia (Based on observations of banded pair, temporarily color-dyed to help differentiate between them, at a nest containing young.) MKM

Recovery round-up. Hon. Editor [R. E. Major]. 1995. *Corella* 19:71-72. The Australian Mus., College St., Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia (Recovery and return information on 23 species within Australia or between Australia and Indian Ocean islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea or Philippines, including a longevity record for Short-tailed Shearwater of over 37 years 9 months. Other species that also occur in North America include Wandering Albatross, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Masked Booby, Cattle Egret, Great Knot and Curlew Sandpiper.) MKM

The migration of the Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*. C. D. T. Minton. 1996. *Stilt* 29:24-35. 165 Dalgert Rd., Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia (Banding totals between 1953 and 1995 are tabulated for Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, and the U.S-funded Asia-wide [especially Philippines] Migratory Animal Pathology Survey. Recoveries and leg-flag sightings up to mid-1996 between Australia and various Asian countries are tabulated, and apparent northward and southward migratory routes, stop-over sites and timing are outlined, with recommendations for future research. Some birds banded in southern Asia have been observed farther north when less than one year old, but no birds banded in Australia have been observed north of Australia when less than one year old. Leg flags increase reporting rates considerably.) MKM

Sightings of leg-flagged waders from Victoria, Australia: report 4. C. Minton. 1996. *Stilt* 29:48-50. 165 Dalgert Rd., Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia (Based on 1711 birds of 14 shorebird species leg-flagged between 1989 and 1995. Sightings of Large Sand Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Sanderling are listed from other parts of Australia, East Malaysia, Japan, New Zealand, Russia and South Vietnam.) MKM

Further sightings of waders leg-flagged (yellow) in North West Australia: list number 3 -July 1996. C. Minton and R. Jessop. 1996. *Stilt* 29:51-52. 165 Dalgert Rd., Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia (Between 1992 and April 1996, 21,489 birds of 38 species were leg-flagged at three sites in North West Australia. Recoveries of Large Sand Plover, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper are listed from Hong Kong, Japan, Russia and South Korea.) MKM

Movements of Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* between Japan and Australia. C. Minton. 1996. *Stilt* 29:53. 165 Dalgert Rd., Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia (Recaptures or sightings of five banded or color-marked birds, including one banded in Australia in 1990, recaptured there in 1991 and Jan.-March 1994, recaptured in Japan in June 1994, and recaptured in Australia Oct. 1994-Jan. 1995 and Nov. 1995-Feb. 1996.) MKM

Note: Joann Constantinides of the Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Library of the Wilson Ornithological Society kindly provided a copy of Petersen's dark-mantled gull paper. Ken Gosbell of the Australian Wader Studies Group generously sent a copy of *Stilt* 29, 1996, in response to a request to Clive D. T. Minton for reprints of several of his interesting recovery publications.

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl



Feathers by Karen McDonald