Recent Literature

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

A new method of capturing buteonine hawks. D. L. Plumpton, D. I. Downing, D. E. Andersen and J. M. Lockhart. 1995. *J. Raptor Res.* 29:141-143. Minn. Coop. Fish & Wildl. Unit, Dept. Fish. & Wildl., Univ. Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108 (Live bait [mice] on a modified leg-hold trap were used successfully to trap Red-tailed, Ferruginous and Swainson's hawks along roadsides.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS, AND MEASUREMENTS

The practiced eye [:] notes on goldfinch identification. K. Kaufman. 1993. *Am. Birds* 47:159-162. 7934 Sabino Sunrise Circle, Tucson, AZ 85750 (Well illustrated essay on variation in plumages of the three North American goldfinch species, with caution on use of wing bar color for distinguishing American from Lawrence's goldfinches and on use of color of undertail coverts for distinguishing American from Lesser goldfinches. Geographic variation in back color of male Lesser Goldfinches is also discussed.) MKM

Eight consecutive primary moults of a Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*. L. G. Underhill and G. D. Underhill. 1997. *Safring News* 26:3-6. Avian Demogr. Unit, Dept. Statistical Sci., Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa (Molt and plumage details of a banded dove on 46 captures during a seven-year period.) MKM

An apparent Dunlin x White-rumped Sandpiper hybrid. K. A. McLaughlin and A. Wormington. 2000. *Ont. Birds* 18:8-12. 30 Bingham Rd., Hamilton, Ont. N8H 3V4 (Detailed description and color photographs of bird observed by many 18-20 May 1994 at Hillman Marsh, Ontario, in probable first alternate plumage.) MKM

Mensural data of Thickbilled Weavers in Lydenburg. S. Schoeman. 1997. *Safring News* 26:21-23. Box 94, Lydenburg 1120, South Africa. (Total length of head and culmen, bill width, bill thickness, culmen, tarsus, wing, tail, length and mass measured on weavers captured in mist nets at a bird feeder showed differences from measurements published from other parts of South Africa. Bill size variability was greater among adult males than among adult females.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Raptor banding at Holiday Beach Conservation Area, 1998. P. Roberts. 2000. *Ont. Bird Banding* 31:38-39. 1089 County Rd., R.R. 2, Essex, Ont. N8M 2X6 (For the second consecutive year, banders at this site along the north shore of Lake Erie managed to band over 1,000 diurnal raptors, with 1,556 birds of seven hawk and three falcon species caught. Totals of each species at two stations are listed, along with overall totals of each.) MKM

Holiday Beach Conservation Area passerine banding station -1988 summary. P. Roberts. 2000. *Ont. Bird Banding* 31:40-43. 1089 County Rd., R.R. 2, Essex, Ont. N8M 2X6 (From August to November 1998, 926 birds of 66 species were banded. A table lists the earliest, latest and peak dates for each species, as well as the numbers caught on each of those days, total caught that fall, numbers caught per 100 net hours and 1997 total and net-hours. For comparison, another table lists totals for the 68 birds of 28 species caught in 1978. Another table lists 33 recaptures of 17 species.) MKM

Banding experiences in reclaimed industrial barrens at Sudbury, Ontario. W. D. McIlveen. 2000. *Ont. Bird Banding* 31:44-47. R.R. 1, Acton, Ont. L7J 2L7 (Banding in "reclaimed" [planted] areas in an area scarred by metal smelters contributed to studies comparing populations of birds on reclained sites with nearby control sites. The barren openness of the sites increased visibility of mist nets, thus minimizing the numbers of birds caught. A table summarizes mass and wing chord of Savannah Sparrows by sex and age.) MKM

Commentary on banding reports from 1984 to 1998. W. D. McIlveen. 2000. *Ont. Bird Banding* 31:48-55. R.R. 1, Acton, Ont. L7J 1L7 (Discusses general trends in birds reported to annual Ontario

banding reports, with comments on trends in reporting vs. trends in effort and/or changes in population. Totals for the 20 species most banded in 1998 are compared with their minima, maxima, means and 1984-1998 totals. A table lists 1998 new high banding totals for 35 species in comparison with their previous highs. Another table indicates which years during 1984-1998 20 organized banding groups were in operation. Graphs chart banding totals 1984-1998 of 32 species.) MKM

Northern Appalachians region. T. Laura. 1992. *Hawk Migration Studies* "12(3)" [sic: 13(1)]:40-50. Box 118, Allamuchy, N.J. 07820 (Fall 1991 banding totals of eight hawk, one eagle and three falcon species are listed for three Pennsylvania sites.) MKM

Texas region. J. M. Economidy. 1992. *Hawk Migration Studies* "12(3)" [sic: 13(1)]:76-79. Suite 508, 6100 Bandera, San Antonio, TX 78238-1653 (A Swainson's Hawk color-banded in Alberta was observed in Texas during fall 1991. An albino Turkey Vulture is also mentioned, but not described.) MKM

Colour bands, combs and coverable badges in Willow Ptarmigan. S. J. Hannon and P. Eason. 1995. *Anim. Behav.* 49:53-62. Dept. Zool., Univ. Alberta, Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2E9 (Data on 325 males color-banded during six years in northwestern British Columbia were used to assess whether or not bands of the same [red] or similar [orange] color as erectable supra-orbital combs influence pairing success, reproductive success, survival or amount of time territorial males are challenged by non-territorial radio-tagged males. A comparision of color of bands with number of mates and fledging success of mates showed no relation between band color and monogamous vs. polygynous males or liklihood that mates fledged young. In a female removal experiment, color of bands did not affect number of new females attracted to males' territories. Radio-tagged non-territorial males did not preferentially intrude on territories of males banded with specific colors of bands.) MKM

Lead exposure and recovery rates of black ducks banded in Tennessee. M. D. Samuel, E. F. Bowers and J. C. Franson. 1992. *J. Wildl. Dis.* 28:555-561. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Natl. Wildl. Health Res. Cent., 6006 Schroeder Rd., Madison, WI 53711 (Lead concentrations were determined in blood extracted from 435 American Black Ducks captured with cannon nets and in corn-baited, swim-in traps during the winters of 1986-1988 at two Tennessee sites. Lead exposure was significantly higher in adults than in juveniles. Higher blood lead concentrations in ducks at one site than the other corresponded with a lower survival rate, determined from band recoveries. Tennessee-banded black ducks were recovered or recaptured in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Ontario, Quebec, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin.) MKM

Productivity, population trend, and status of Northern Goshawks, *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*, in northeastern Wisconsin. T. C. Erdman, D. F. Brinker, J. P. Jacobs, J. Wilde and T. O. Meyer. 1998. *Can. Field-Nat.* 112:17-27. Richter Mus. Nat. Hist., Univ. Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311 (Banding helped to demonstrate an increase in turn-over rates of nesting females during a period when productivity declined, apparently because of increased predation by fishers. Prior to fisher predation, recapture and recovery data suggested that adult males survived 25% longer than adult females. Determination of inter-year territory longevity was presumably also based at least partly on banded birds.) MKM

An apparent case of between-brood sibling competition in Chestnut-collared Longspurs, *Calcarius ornatus*. D. P. Hill. 1998. *Can. Field-Nat.* 112:161-163. Behav. Ecol. Group, Div. Ecol., Dept. Biol. Sci., Univ. Calgary, Calgary, Alta. T2N 1N4 (A color-banded young of the first 1994 nest of a pair of longspurs was found begging and receiving food at its parents' second nest of that year. Observations of banded birds allowed the author to determine the normal amount of time that parents feed young after fledging.) MKM

Alberta—Calgary area bluebird trails, 1984 results. Calgary Area Bluebird Trails. 1995. *Sialia* 17:52. Calgary Area Bluebird Trails, c/o Don Stiles, 20 Lake Wapta Rise, S.E., Calgary, Alta. T2J 2M9

(Eight-year and seven-year old Tree Swallows were recaptured. A female Western Bluebird was banded as part of the documentation of a Western x Mountain bluebird pairing.) MKM

Oregon—Western Bluebird Newsletter, November 1994. Hubert Prescott Western Bluebird Recovery Project. 1995. *Sialia* 17:57. Hubert Prescott Western Bluebird Recovery Project, c/o Patricia Johnston, 1717 S.W. 50th, Portland, OR 97219 (During 1994, 363 bluebird fledglings were banded in Oregon.) MKM

Behavior of Peregrines in winter in south Texas. J. H. Enderson, J. Larrabee, Z. Jones, C. Peper and C. Lepisto. 1995. *J. Raptor Res.* 29:93-98. Dept. Biol., Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 (Data from seven radio-tagged Peregrine Falcons showed that they hunted in overlapping areas, indicated habitats hunted and allowed the authors to determine the duration of their stay on the study area.) MKM

American Kestrel reproduction and dispersal in central Wisconsin. E. A. Jacobs. 1995. *J. Raptor Res.* 29:135-137. Linwood Springs Res. Stn., 1601 Brown Deer Lane, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (Of 603 nestlings banded over a 13-year period, nine [1.5%] were encountered in a subsequent breeding season, while one female captured as a breeding bird had been banded elsewhere. Seven of these ten birds dispersed to within 35 km of their natal areas, with seven females moving a median of 30 km and three males a median of 16 km.) MKM

Neotropical migrants: a bander's delight. R. A. Weiss. 1997. *Safring News* 26:17-20. Chipper Woods Bird Observ., 10329 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis,IN 46280 (Essay on Nearctic breeding-Neotropical wintering birds, especially wood warblers, with some examples of banding efforts in Indiana and Costa Rica. Includes a Michigan recovery of an Ovenbird banded in Indiana.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Eagle Owl predation on Egyptian Vulture and Northern Goshawk: possible effect of a decrease in European rabbit availability. J. L. Tella and S. Manosa. 1993. *J. Raptor Res.* 27:111-112. Departamento de Biologia Animal, Faculdad de Biologia, Universidad de Barcelona, Avda. Diagonal, 645, 08028, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain (The leg and band of a 38-day old goshawk was found 3 km away from its nest in an Eagle Owl nest.) MKM

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) status and conservation at Ria Formosa National Park, Algarve, Portugal. M. Calado. 1996. pp. 78-80 *in* A. J. Crivelli, H. Hafner, M. Fausola, R. M. Erwin and D. A. McCrimmon, Jr. (Eds.). **Ecology, conservation, and management of colonial waterbirds in the Mediterranean region.** *Colonial Waterbirds* 19, Spec. Publ. 1. Bloco Galaeo, 5º Andar, Nº606, Siroco, 8700 Olhao, Portugal (Recoveries/sightings of color-banded nesting adults has confirmed that they move among nesting areas from year to year, with one Portugal-banded bird recaptured in Spain.) MKM

Migration and wintering grounds of Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis falcinellus*) ringed at the colonies of the Dnestr Delta, Ukraine, Black Sea. I. V. Schogolev. 1996. pp. 152-158 *in* A. J. Crivelli, H. Hafner, M. Fausola, R. M. Erwin and D. A. McCrimmon, Jr. (Eds.). **Ecology, conservation, and management of colonial waterbirds in the Mediterranean region.** *Colonial Waterbirds* 19, Spec. Publ. 1. Apt. 4, 11 Pervomaiska Str., Belgorod-Dnestrovskii 272300, Ukraine (From 1972 to 1982 [especially 1977], about 5000 chicks were banded in colonies in the Dnestr Delta. By December 1992, 56 recoveries (1%) had been received, showing considerable movement among Black Sea colonies, especially by young birds. Some, however, returned to breed in their natal colonies four years after hatching. Winter recoveries indicate that the main wintering area is in western Africa, especially in the inner delta of the Niger River in Mali. Two have been recovered in Italy during migration, which appears to cross the Sahara Desert. Recoveries are mapped, with details listed in tables.) MKM

Trans-Sahara recoveries of House Martins *Delichon urbica*, with discussion on ringing, roosting and sightings in Africa. L. A. Hill. 1997. *Safring News* 26:7-12. 32 Hillside Dr., Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 7EZ, U.K. (Details of 20 House Martins banded north of the Sahara [in Algeria,

Belgium, Belorussia, England, Finland, Germany, Norway, Russia and Sweden] and recovered south of the Sahara [in Burkino Faso, Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe] and one banded in Kenya and recovered in Russia are tabulated and mapped. By the end of 1994, about 1,030,000 House Martins had been banded in Europe and about 300 in Africa. Only one of 248,084 House Martins banded in England to date has been recovered south of the Sahara, whereas 33 sub-Saharan recoveries have been recorded from 158,036 European Swifts banded in England.) MKM

Sunbird recaptures and seasonal movements at Lydenburg, Mpumalanga Province. D. H. de Swardt and S. Schoeman. 1997. *Safring News* 26:13-15. Natl. Mus., Box 266, Bloemfontein, South Africa (Between 1988 and 1997, 565 bird of four sunbird species were captured and banded in the Lydenberg area. Of 14 recaptures of Malachite Sunbirds, only one had moved, apparently in response to a veld fire. Two of six Black Sunbird recaptures showed seasonal movements. Similarly, only one recaptured Doublecollared Sunbird to date represented a seasonal movement. Longevity records attained so far are 62 months for Malachite Sunbirds and 61 months for Black Sunbirds.) MKM

Note: Thanks to Susan Hannon and Michael D. Samuel for sending reprints of papers abstracted in this issue.

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

Books

COWBIRDS AND OTHER BROOD PARASITES. Catherine P. Ortega. 1998. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. xx + 372 pp. $65.00 U.S.

As suggested by the title, **Cowbirds and other brood parasites** is essentially two books in one. It is primarily a very thorough update of Herbert Friedmann's classic **The cowbirds [:] a study in the biology of social parasitism**, published in 1929, plus a review of brood parasitism in other birds. Ortega has combined her own research with the literature to provide comprehensive reviews of what is known to date on cowbird biology (including that of non-parasitic cowbirds), the biology of avian brood parasitism generally, and the techniques used by other bird species to avoid having brood parasites deposit eggs into their nests and/or to avoid incubating any such eggs. Tables throughout the text and detailed appendices at the end of the book summarize considerable background data without cluttering the text.

The first three chapters constitute a review of brood parasitism generally, including a taxonomic review of the avian families that exhibit brood parasitism (covering nonobligate parasites of conspecifics, nonobligate parasites of other species and obligate parasites), effects of brood parasitism on the host species, defense mechanisms shown by potential hosts (ranging from outright rejection of parasite eggs to various ways of reducing access by the female parasite to the nests), and a thorough review of the various theories as to how brood parasitism may have evolved in one or more of the avian families that exhibit it. Some grebe and larid species could be added to her table of species reported as exhibiting nonobligate interspecific parasitism (p. 2), but are presumably excluded on the basis of the eggs having arrived by other means, such as being carried to the nests as food (p.3). I would have added the possibility that on some substrates, some eggs may have rolled from one nest into another, especially when adults left nests suddenly, as when disturbed. Ortega's reviews are generally comprehensive, presenting an array of views. Unfortunately, however, her text appears to have been finished before Alexander F. Skutch published his view that brood parasitism in cowbirds evolved "from the penchant of certain birds to breed in nests more elaborate than they could make" (Skutch 1996:172), a view that differs from other published theories on the evolution of brood parasitism.

The next five chapters constitute life history accounts of the six cowbird species. Chapter 4 covers the non-parasitic Bay-winged Cowbird and its frequent parasite, the Screaming Cowbird, with emphasis on recent research by Rosendo Fraga and Paul Mason. The relatively little-studied Giant