
News, Notes, Comments

The Eastern Bird Banding Association will conduct a North American Banding Council bander certification session **12-14 Oct 2001** at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, near Rochester, NY. This first session will accept up to 16 candidates already possessing a U.S. or Canadian banding permit or sub-permit. Applications are available from:

Ms. Elizabeth Brooks
1435 Waterwells Rd.

Alfred Station, NY. 14803

Ph: 607-587-9571; brookser@infoblvd.net

Completed applications should be returned to her between **15 Jun -15 Jul 2001**. Applicants will be notified by **15 Aug**. Accepted applicants will receive NABC manuals and further information on the written examination and the October field evaluation by **31 Aug 2001**.

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Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

Fleming, J. H. "Harry" (James Henry). M. S. Quinn. 1997. pp. 271-273 in K. B. Sterling, R. P. Harmond, G. A. Cevasco and L. F. Hammond (eds.). Biographical dictionary of American and Canadian naturalists and environmentalists. Greenwood Press, Westport, CT. Dept. of History, Lakehead Univ., Thunder Bay, Ont. P7B 5E1 (Brief biography of first Canadian President of the American Ornithologists' Union, whose banding of an American Robin in Toronto in 1905 constitutes the first known banding of a bird in Ontario.) MKM

Green, Charlotte Hilton. K. B. Sterling. 1997. pp. 325-327 in K. B. Sterling, R. P. Harmond, G. A. Cevasco and L. F. Hammond (eds.). Biographical dictionary of American and Canadian naturalists and environmentalists. Greenwood Press, Westport, CT. 7104 Wheeler Rd., Richmond, VA 23229 (Brief biography of prolific writer of natural history books and magazine articles, who began one of the earliest bird-banding stations in North Carolina in 1923.) MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Effects of a nasal marker on behavior of breeding female Ruddy Ducks. J. T. Pelayo and R. G. Clark. 2000. *J. Field Ornithol.* 71:484-492. Dept. Biol., Univ. Saskatchewan, 112 Science Pl., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 5S2 (Modified nasal markers had little effect.) RCT

Collar retention of Canada Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese from the western Canadian Arctic. M. O. Wiebe, J. E. Hines and G. I. Robertson. 2000. *J. Field Ornithol.* 71:531-540. Can. Wildl. Serv., Suite 301, 5204 50th Ave., Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 1F2 (Thin collars on Canada Geese were lost at significant rates, varying with sex and manufacturer. Thick collars on Greater White-fronted Geese showed almost no loss.) RCT

Trapping territorial Black-billed Magpies. X. H. Wang and C. H. Trost. 2000. *J. Field Ornithol.* 71:730-735. Dept. Biol. Sci., Box 8007, Idaho State Univ., Pocatello, ID 83209 (Three successful techniques are described.) RCT

Reproductive effort and survival of wild Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*, with backpack harness and implant transmitters. P. R. Garrettson and F. C. Rohwer. 1998. *Can. Field-Nat.* 112:212-216. School Forest., Wildl. and Fish., Louisiana Agric. Cent., Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (Twenty-eight female teal in Manitoba were decoy-trapped, banded, fitted with nasal disks and either surgically implanted with radios or fitted with backpack transmitters. All implanted females nested, whereas only three of eight backpack-fitted birds did. However, two of five females implanted during laying abandoned, whereas none of four females fitted with backpacks during laying abandoned their nests. Daily survival rates of the two treatment groups did not differ statistically.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS, AND MEASUREMENTS

Molt of the Gray Vireo. G. Voelker. 2000. *Condor* 102:610-618. Barrick Mus. Nat. Hist., Box 454012, Univ. Nevada, Las Vegas, NV 89154 (Describes molt cycle and molting grounds). RCT

Sexual dichromism in the plumage of juvenile Brown-headed Cowbirds. C. Farmer and M. A. Holmgren. 2000. *J. Field Ornithol.* 71:429-436. *Ecol., Evol. & Marine Biol.*, Univ. California-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106. RCT

Shorebirds and surf clams: an unusual interaction. N. Tsipoura and J. Burger. 1999. *Waterbirds* 22:140-141. Dept. Life Sci., Rutgers Univ., 604 Allison Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854 (Includes culmen and flattened wing measurements and mass of 18 female and 11 male Dunlin that were caught with clams clamped on their bills in New Jersey.) MKM

Results of wing sampling of Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) in France. M. Devort and H. Kalchreuter. pp. 82-84 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. (Data from wing samples suggest that all three western Palearctic snipe will suspend post-nuptial molt of wing feathers if time between the breeding season and onset of fall migration is insufficient. All Great Snipe examined had suspended this molt, whereas about half of Common Snipe completed molt before migrating, and Jack Snipe showed an intermediate level.) MKM

Identifying gulls: don't panic. E. A. T. Blom. 2001. *Bird Watcher's Digest* 23(3):33-38. address not given. (Well-illustrated discussion of general principles in identifying gulls, with their variable plumages and seasonal variation. Herring Gull is used to illustrate the sequence of plumages of four-year gulls and Ring-billed Gull to illustrate three-year gulls.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Lead exposure in American Black Ducks after implementation of non-toxic shot. M. D. Samuel and E. F. Bowers. 2000. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 64:947-

953. U.S. Geol. Surv., Natl. Wildl. Health Center, 6006 Schroeder Rd., Madison, WI 53711 (Prevalence of elevated blood lead in black ducks banded while wintering in Tennessee declined by 44% between samples collected in 1986-1988 [before the ban in lead shot] and those collected in 1997-1999 [after the ban was implemented]. The decline was pronounced in adult birds, but not in juveniles.) MKM

Aspects of hatching success and chick survival in Gull-billed Terns in coastal Virginia. T. B. Eyler, R. M. Erwin, D. B. Stotts and J. S. Hatfield. 1999. *Waterbirds* 22:54-59. Maryland Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, Univ. Maryland Eastern Shore, 1120 Trigg Hall, Princess Anne, MD 21853 (On each nest check, new chicks were marked on their wing coverts with bright nail polish until they had grown enough to wear standard bands [at three-four days old]. Of 214 chicks hatched from 110 nests, 98 [46%] survived to a least 14 days. Hatch order and year appeared to affect chick survival significantly, while no differences in chick survival were apparent among habitat types, brood size or time of season.) MKM

Predicting chick survival and productivity of Roseate Terns from data on early growth. I. C. T. Nisbet, J. S. Hatfield, W. A. Link and J. A. Spindel. 1999. *Waterbirds* 22:90-97. 150 Alder Lane, North Falmouth, MA 02556 (Data from chicks marked at hatching and weighed daily or nearly daily during ten years of study at a Connecticut colony showed that early growth was a strong predictor of chick survival. A discriminant function based on the mass of the second-hatched chick on its second day of life was 83% accurate in predicting survival.) MKM

Canadian landbird monitoring strategy [:] monitoring needs and priorities into the new millennium. Downes, C. M., E. H. Dunn and C. M. Francis. 2000. Partners in Flight-Canada, Ottawa. 64 pp. Natl. Wildl. Res. Centre, Can. Wildl. Serv., Hull, Que. K1A 0H3 (Includes description, assessment of progress to date and recommendations on the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, a key component of which is standardized netting/banding and on Canadian participation in the banding-based Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship project.) MKM

Time-activity budget for Common Loons, *Gavia immer*, nesting on Lake Superior. T. J. Gostomski and D. C. Evers. 1998. *Can. Field-Nat.* 112:191-197. 522 18th Ave. W., Ashland, WI 54806 (Observations of three pairs of color-banded loons in Michigan indicated that they spent more time moving around their territories during pre-nesting than during other periods and more time resting during the post-breeding period.) MKM

Post-fledging survival in Common Terns in relation to brood order, hatching date and parental age. I. C. T. Nisbet. 1996. *Colonial Waterbirds* 19:253-255. 150 Alder Lane, North Falmouth, MA 02556 (Of 353 Common Tern chicks of known-aged parents banded at a Massachusetts colony in 1983, 18 were found breeding there and one each at three other sites between 1986 and 1995, when 5,543 adults were trapped at the author's main study colony. No statistically significant difference was detected in brood order, hatching date, or parental age between these 21 birds and those not re-encountered during this period. One of the 1983-banded chicks was caught in Brazil when three years old and later bred at the natal colony.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Dive bouts and feeding sites of Adelie Penguins rearing chicks in an area with fast sea-ice. Y. Watanuki, Y. Miyamoto and A. Kato. 2000. *Waterbirds* 22:120-129. Lab. Appl. Zool., Faculty Agriculture, Hokkaido Univ., Kita-ku, Kita-9, Sapporo, 060, Japan (Small bird-borne data loggers on 22 penguins and land-based radio-tracking were used to study diving behavior and feeding sites at small open-water leads in Antarctica. These techniques provided data on numbers of feeding sites per foraging trip, duration of diving bouts, changes in feeding sites, depths of dives and seasonal patterns.) MKM

Recent research activities on Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) in Russia. V. A. Kuzyakin. 2000. pp. 5-9 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. Inst. Ecol. & Evol. Problems, Russian Acad. Sci., Leninsky prospect 33, Moscow 117071, Russia (Between 1991 and 1997, about 1300 Eurasian Woodcock were

banded in Russia, with 25 recoveries by 1995. Results suggest that young are 2.76 times more vulnerable to shooting than adults. A bird recovered in France, about 6500 km from the banding site within 143 days of being banded in 1997 is the longest distance recovery to date.) MKM

Ringling of Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) in Russia from 1991 to 1997. F. Gossman, Y. Ferrans, S. Fokin and I. V. Iljinsky. 2000. pp. 10-14 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. Office national de la chasse, 53, rue de Russell, F-44000 Nantes, France (Recoveries in Russia of Eurasian Woodcock banded in northern and eastern Europe led to an extensive banding program in Russia during the autumn periods of 1991-1997. During this period "almost 1500" were banded in Russia [slightly more than indicated by Kuzyakin in the previous paper], a marked increase over the 83 banded from 1955 to 1994 in the St. Petersburg region. Birds were caught with a hand net after being spotted with a spotlight. Annual efforts and results are tabulated [555 woodcock banded in 1995], as are annual age ratios [66.5%-81% young] and numbers of recoveries outside Russia each year. Of 1263 woodcock banded in Russia 1991-1996, 147 have been recovered in 11 other countries, 99 in France.) MKM

First results of Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) ringling in the north-west regions of Russia. I. V. Iljinsky, S. A. Fetisov, V. G. Ptschelinzev, M. V. Verevkin, V. I. Golovan and D. M. Chistyakov. 2000. pp. 15-18 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. Biol. Res. Inst. Saint Petersburg State Univ., Oranienbaumskoye sh., 2, St. Petersburg, Stary Petregof, Russia (After V. R. Dits banded Eurasian Woodcock in the St. Petersburg area from 1911-1913, few were banded in north-western Russia until 1991 through 1997, when 1287 were banded in the Leningrad and Pskov regions, with 134 recoveries by the end of 1997 [bringing the total recoveries from the region to 176], mostly in France (63%), but also in nine other European countries. These data and 26 recoveries in north-western Russia of woodcock banded in ten other European countries and one

other Russian province, helped define the migratory routes used by woodcock nesting in north-western Russia. One bird banded on 22 Oct. 1991 in north-western Russia was recovered 2488 km away in Great Britain 14 days later.) MKM

Studies on the Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) in Estonia. J. Elts. 2000. pp. 26-27 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. Estonian Ornithol. Soc., Box 227, EE-2400 Tartu, Estonia (During 1970-1992, 124 Eurasian Woodcock [108 chicks and 16 adults] were banded in Estonia, while nine to 29 were banded per year 1993-1996.) MKM

Impact of the 1996/1997 cold spell on Woodcock in France based on ring recoveries. F. Gossman and Y. Ferrand. 2000. pp. 37-39 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. Office national de la chasse, 53, rue de Russell, F-44000 Nantes, France (Almost 50% of 133 "direct recoveries" in January-February 1997 of Eurasian Woodcock banded in November 1996-January 1997 were more than 20 km from the banding site, compared with fewer than 20% of those recovered in comparable periods in previous years. Similarly, 61.8% of 110 "indirect recoveries" in 1997 were more than 20 km from the banding site, compared with 25% in previous years. These results indicate greater movement during cold periods, especially to coastal areas.) MKM

Trapping of shorebirds at Jeziorsko reservoir in central Poland. A. Kalinski and R. Wlodarczyk. 2000. p. 51 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. Dept. Ecol. & Vert. Zool., Univ. Lodz, Kazowskiego 40/27, PL Lodz 93-379, Poland (About 5000 shorebirds of 23 species were banded 1989-1997. Shorebirds were caught in traps [all years] and nets [1989]. The most numerous species caught was Common Snipe, of which 45 long distance recoveries had been received by January 1998, mostly [34] from France, but also three other European countries. A bird recovered at Jeziorsko had been banded in Russia.) MKM

Winter habitat-use and diet of the Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) in south-west

England. A. Hoodless, R. A. H. Draycott and K. Tucker. 2000. pp. 57-62 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. The Game Conservancy Trust, Crubenmore Lodge, Newtonmore, Inverness-shire PH20 1BE, U.K. (Radio-tracking of three snipe showed that they spent the day roosting in rush or willow patches, then shortly after sunset flew an average of 654 m [up to 1320 m] to feed all night on pasture fields. Loss of contact within two days of three other radio-tagged birds was thought to indicate movement out of the study area, rather than malfunction of the equipment.) MKM

Preliminary results of the snipe project in the Loire Estuary, France. G. Leray. 2000. p. 72 in H. Kalchreuter (ed). Fifth European woodcock and snipe workshop. *Wetlands Internatl.* Global Ser. 4. Office National de la Chasse, 53 rue Russeil, F-44000 Nantes, France (Of "almost" 400 Common Snipe banded, 39 [about 10%] have been recaptured or recovered, 25% in the same winter, the rest in subsequent winters, up to seven, suggesting high winter site fidelity.) MKM

Stomach temperature variations in a Cape Gannet *Morus capensis* as an index of foraging activity and feeding rates. D. Gremillet and J. Cooper. 1999. *Atlantic Seabirds* 1:49-56. Institut für Meereskunde Kiel, Dusternbrooker Weg 20 D-24105 Kiel, Germany (A stomach temperature logger fed to a gannet in a fish during banding in South Africa provided 104 hours of stomach temperature data that provide information on duration of time foraging at sea and feeding rates.) MKM

Band recoveries of Spanish Little Egrets, *Egretta garzetta*. J. Bartolome, M. Fernandez-Cruz and F. Campos. 1996. *Colonial Waterbirds* 19:220-225. Universidad Complutense, Facultad de Biología, Dept. de Biol. Animal I, 28040, Madrid, Spain (Data from 217 recoveries [1.1%] of 20,160 banded egrets and observations of 172 egrets wing-marked in Spain and 53 wing-marked in France showed that a population in the western part of the Iberian Peninsula is distinct from the population in eastern Spain and apparently isolated from other European populations. The two populations showed distinct breeding and post-

breeding dispersal ranges but intermingled somewhat in northwestern Africa during winter.) MKM

A report on eight years of banding rehabilitated birds. S. Smith. 1996. *Corella* 20:20-25. WA Native Bird Hospital Inc., Box 232, Mundaring, Western Australia 6073, Australia (Between 1985 and 1993, 3578 rehabilitated birds of 123 species were banded and released. By June 1993, 125 of these birds of 25 species had been recovered 132 times [3.5% recovery rate]. Time between release and recovery was over three months in over 50% of recoveries, the longest time being attained by a Singing Honeyeater killed by a car 6 years, 9 months after release. Most recoveries were within 50 km of the release site, but a Nankeen Night-Heron was found injured 1323 km away 25 days after release.) MKM

Satellite tracking of a Wandering Albatross from the Antipodes Islands, New Zealand, to South America. D. G. Nichols, M. D. Murray, G. P. Elliott and K. J. Walker. 1996. *Corella* 20:28. Peninsula Inst. of TAFE, Breeze St., Carrum, Vic. 3197, Australia (A male fitted with a radio-satellite transmitter flew about 8000 km in 17 days from New Zealand to west of Chile after successfully raising a chick. During a 2.8 day period, the bird flew about 2900 km) MKM

Note: Thanks to Michael D. Samuel for a reprint of his paper with E. Frank Bowers abstracted in this issue and to William H. Thompson III for sending a copy of *Bird Watcher's Digest* 23(3).

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl
RCT = Robert C. Tweit

Books

BIRDING IN THE AMERICAN WEST. Kevin J. Zimmer. 2000. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. 402 pp. Cloth \$49.94 U.S.; paper \$25.00 U.S.

Many western birdwatchers welcomed the publication in 1985 of the book, **THE WESTERN BIRDWATCHER**, written by Kevin J. Zimmer and were disappointed that it went out of print rather quickly, becoming difficult to find. **BIRDING IN THE AMERICAN WEST**, an expanded and updated revision, finds a ready audience.

Historically, there has not been as much information available to the birdwatcher about birds in the western part of America, especially the Rocky Mountains, Great Basin, and the desert southwest, as there has been about the East Coast, "Southeast," and "Midwest." Besides the early explorers, surveyors and soldiers, there were few observers documenting the natural world around them in the vast western wilderness before the twentieth century. Roger Tory Peterson's western bird identification guide (first published in 1941), the bird finding guide by Olin Sewall Petingill (first edition, 1951) and **THE WESTERN BIRDWATCHER** helped to fill a huge knowledge gap for the west.

Although it has a new title and more pages, **BIRDING IN THE AMERICAN WEST** is similar to its predecessor in format and content. The chapters have been reordered and material added, especially under identification and bird finding. The

habitat descriptions in the old book have been eliminated and new art and photography are most welcome. Also welcome is the expanded table of contents, which makes this book much easier to use.

The text of the book is divided into five chapters: Techniques of Finding Birds (26 pp.), Techniques of Identifying Birds (31 pp.), Keeping Field Notes (nine pp.), Difficult Identifications: Beyond the Field Guides (201 pp.) and Finding the Western Birds (108 pp.), followed by a list of species mentioned in A.O.U. checklist order, a list of references (not all cited in the text), and an index.

The "Ready Reference to Key Characteristics" section from the chapter on techniques of bird identification is very helpful, but perhaps would have been even more so had it been interspersed in the appropriate places in the difficult identifications chapter. In fact, the whole chapter on techniques should be read as an introduction to the chapter on difficult identifications, and might well have been placed immediately before it. Readers may want to review sections within the techniques chapter at intervals to refresh their knowledge.

Of most interest to birders is the greatly expanded and updated identification chapter with much better photographs (gone are the photos of drab and boring skins) and some very nice line drawings illustrating the detail in the written descriptions.