

# News, Notes, Comments



**Fig. 1. Outer wing coverts of Eastern Wood-Pewee showing replaced innermost primary covert (arrow).**

Re.: *North American Bird Bander*, Vol. 27, No. 1, pgs. 12-14, "Primary-Covert Replacement in the Eastern Wood-Pewee," Kenneth M. Burton.

The above replaces the poor quality photo that was published in the note cited above. The production manager apologizes to the author and to our readers.

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## COLOR-BAND SEQUENCE PROGRAM

Program to generate random combinations of colors for color band selection is available. The program can randomize the order of any set of colors, up to six positions, with the option to include the numbered aluminum band as a random position. The program is written as a MINITAB macro and is available by sending a computer disk and self-addressed, stamped mailer to J. Scott Dieni, Redstart Consulting, 403 Deer Road, Evergreen, CO 80439, or by email: redstart82@earthlink.net. Alternatively, we can generate a printout or worksheet file of color band sets according to your specifications (i.e., which colors, number of positions, aluminum band stationary or position randomized) from Stephanie Jones at sljones82@earthlink.net.

## DARVIC COLOR BANDS FAIL

In NE Montana about 600 Darvic color bands (Red, Orange, Yellow, White, Black, Green, Light and Dark Blue) lost their shape and snapped open, losing their flexibility. They became very brittle and were no longer useable. They had been stored in a closed truck with an outside temperature of about 85° F. No other equipment or supplies were damaged, including regular plastic color bands. Stephanie Jones, FWS, Denver, CO; sljones82@earthlink.net.

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## NOTE ON SECOND OAK TITMOUSE BROOD

In *The Birds of North America*, No.485, Cicero (2000) reports "...some evidence that pairs may raise two broods on occasion." (My underlining.)

Through our cavity-nesting dispersal banding study for the California Bluebird Recovery Program, we have confirmed an instance of an Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) raising two broods in a single season.

A female Oak Titmouse ...930-99243, was banded 19 Apr 2000, while incubating in a nestbox in an oak-pine woodland off Sand Ridge Road near Somerset, CA. Approximately a year later, on 12 Apr 2001, she was recaptured while incubating in another nestbox 83m NW of the original banding. The first location was on a wooden post. The second location was a box mounted on a studded-T fence post.

On 29 Apr 2002, she had moved 5 m S to another nestbox erected in late 2001 and attached to a large California black oak. She was recaptured while incubating four eggs. On 3 May, the four chicks were banded and subsequently fledged. On 9 Jun, she was again recaptured in the same nestbox on the same nest. A small quantity of fur had been added but no major additions had been made to the nest. She had six eggs. On 18 Jun, the six chicks were banded and successfully fledged.

## LITERATURE CITED

Cicero, C. 2000. Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) and Juniper Titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 485 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

**Hatch Graham**

PO Box 39, Somerset, CA 95684

Assisted by Carol Willburn

## Recent Literature

### BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

**Consistency of mist netting and point counts in assessing landbird species richness and relative abundance during migration.** Y. Wang and D. M. Finch. 2002. *Condor* 104:59-72. U.S.D.A. -Forest Serv., Rocky Mtn. Res. Stn., 2205 Columbia SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106 (The two techniques were more consistent than in studies done on breeding or wintering habitats. Mist-netting detected 74% of the 197 species identified and point counts 82%. One hundred ten species were detected by both techniques.) RCT

**Retention and effects of nasal markers and subcutaneously implanted radio transmitters on breeding female Lesser Scaup.** R. W. Brook and R. G. Clark. 2002. *J. Field Ornithol.* 73:206-212. Dept. Biol., Univ. Saskatchewan, 112 Science Pl., Saskatoon, SK S7N 5F2 (Nasal markers were retained but affected behavior. Five of 47 radios were lost; average retention time 39 days. All 42 females survived through the observation period.) RCT

**Use of fish nets as a method to capture small rails.** B. Fuertes, J. Garcia, and J. M. Colino. 2002. *J. Field Ornithol.* 73:220-223. Dept. Biol. Anim., Univ. Leon, Campus de Vegazana 24071, Leon, Spain (Use of modified fish traps with fruit, vegetables, or cat food as bait gave best results.) RCT

**A comparison of point-count and mist-net detections of songbirds by habitat and time-of-season.** R. W. Pagen, F. R. Thompson, III, and D. E. Burhans. 2002. *J. Field Ornithol.* 73:53-59. Dept. Fish. & Wildl. Sci., 302 Nat. Resources Bldg., Univ.

Missouri, Columbia 65211 (Some species are detected more easily by point-counts, others by mist-nets. Habitat and season influence these results. Careful design is essential and neither method fits all species.) RCT

**Ringling techniques published in *Safring News*, 1972-1993.** L. G. Underhill. 1994. *Safring News* 23:73-80. Avian Demography Unit, Dept. Stat. Sci., Univ. Cape Town Rondebosch 7700, South Africa (Summary of various techniques for catching birds [nets, lures, traps, and lights], marking birds [nasal saddles, color bands, wing tags, dyes and natural markings], and other banding-related techniques and equipment [equipment boxes, pliers, holding boxes, measurements, recording of plumage/molt details, record-keeping, and unexpected hazards to birds and banders].) MKM

**Avoiding dangerous beaks.** S. Schoeman. 1994. *Safring News* 23:80-81. Box 94, Lydenburg 1120, South Africa (A suitably sized pill container punctured with air holes was placed over the heads of weavers and barbets during banding operations.) MKM

### IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS, AND MEASUREMENTS

**Determination of age of nestling Prothonotary Warblers.** D. W. Podlesak and C. R. Blem. 2002. *J. Field Ornithol.* 73:33-37. Dept. Biol., Virginia Commonwealth Univ., 816 Park Ave., Richmond 23284 (A method is presented for aging nestling Prothonotary Warblers, based on a sample of 766 birds.) RCT