

Recent Literature

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

Erythristic Rose-breasted Grosbeak. R. Pittaway and J. Iron. 2006. *Ont. Birds* 24:2-5. 4 Anson St., Minden, ON K0M 2K0 (Detailed description and photographs of adult male in alternate plumage with extensive red on underparts and red rump.) MKM

Breeding schedule and primary moult in Dunlins *Calidris alpina* of the far east. P. S. Tomkovich. 1998. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 85:29-34. Zool. Mus., Moscow Lomonosov State Univ., Bolshaya Nikitskaya St. 6, Moscow 103009, Russia (Data from birds caught for banding and from specimens indicate that onset and duration of primary molt of *Calidris alpina sakhalina* starts earlier in the year and at an earlier stage of the incubation period in Chukotka than in two races that breed farther south in Russia, paralleling latitudinal differences in molt of Alaskan-breeding Dunlins.) MKM

Diet and postnatal growth in Red-legged and Black-legged kittiwakes: an interspecies comparison. B. K. Lance and D. D. Roby. 1998. *Colon. Waterbirds* 21:375-387. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Migratory Bird Manage., 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503 (Growth rates of the two kittiwake species, determined by measuring mass and wing-length at three-day intervals, on St. George Island, Alaska, were similar in form and shape, but differed in scale.) MKM

Ageing Laughing Gull nestlings using head-bill length. L. M. Reed, D. F. Caccamise and E. P. Orrell. 1998. *Colon. Waterbirds* 21:414-417. Dept. Entomol., Cook College, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (Mass, exposed culmen length, gonyx depth, head-bill length, tarsus length, wing chord, tail length, and length of longest primary were measured on 19 chicks on Egg Island, NJ, at least four times on ten of them. Head-bill length provided the most reliable measurement for estimating chick age.) MKM

A method of age determination for nestling Gull-billed Terns. J. M. Sanchez-Guzman and A. M. Del Viejo. 1998. *Colon. Waterbirds* 21:427-430. Grupo de Investigacion en Conservacion, Area de Biologia Animal, Universidad de Extremadura, Ave. de Elvas s/n 06071, Badajoz, Spain (During 1996 and 1967, 356 damp chicks, assumed to have hatched that day, were banded and measured at four day intervals. Lengths of head and wing reached maximum length at different ages. A principal components analysis of these data allowed age of chicks found beyond the day of hatching to be estimated within one day in 88% of cases.) MKM

Sexing of adult Gentoo Penguins in Antarctica using morphometrics. M. Renner, J. Valencia, L. S. Davis, D. Saez and O. Cifuentes. 1998. *Colon. Waterbirds* 21:444-449. Dept. Zool., Univ. Otago, Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand (Bill depth and width, crown, culmen, flipper length and width, foot length, head plus bill, mass and maximum gap between open mandibles were measured on 26 nesting pairs of Southern Gentoo Penguins on Ardley Island. A discriminate function analysis based on five of these measurements was developed to distinguish between sexes, with mass and bill depth contributing the greatest discriminating power.) MKM

Sexing adult Black-legged Kittiwakes by DNA, behavior, and morphology. P. G. R. Jodice, R. B. Lancot, V. A. Gill, D. D. Roby and S. A. Hatch. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:405-415. U.S.G.S. Oregon Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit & Dept. Fish. & Wildl., Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, OR 97331 (Gender determinations based on DNA-based genetic techniques, behavior and morphology were determined on 605 breeding adults and compared. Gender-specific behaviors were recorded on 285 of these. DNA-based techniques classified 97.2% of the kittiwakes correctly, while behavior predicted gender with 96.5% accuracy. Morphometric models based on these data predicted gender of 73-96% of the birds sampled. Length of head plus bill was the most accurate morphometric predictor.) MKM

Low reproductive success of Black Skimmers associated with low food availability. C. A. Gordon, D. A. Cristol and R. A. Beck. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:468-474. Dept. Biol., College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23187 (includes data on growth in mass of male and female chicks in Virginia.) MKM

Sexual size dimorphism in the Antarctic Shag. R. Casaux and A. Baroni. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:489-493. Instituto Antarctica Argentino, Cerrito 1248, 1010, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Measurements of mass, culmen, bill, tarsus, wing length, bill depth and bill width of 141 Antarctic Shags on the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula indicate that males are mostly larger than females, but with overlap. Discriminate functions increased the predictability of gender.) MKM

Predicting the sex of Kelp Gulls by external measurements. C. Torlaschi, P. Gandini, E. Frere and R. Martinez Peck. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:518-520. Dept. de Ciencias Biol., Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Univ. de Buenos Aires, Estrada 1275, (9050) Puerto Deseado, Santa Cruz, Argentina (A discriminant function model allowed sex of Kelp Gulls in Argentina to be predicted with 97% accuracy, with head length, bill length and bill depth the most useful of six measurements. Males were larger than females in all six measurements.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Movements of American White Pelicans from Nevada through the western United States. M. Fuller, M. Yates, L. Schueck, K. Bates, W. S. Seegar, W. Henry, H. Shannon and G. Young. 1998. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 85:23. U.S. Geol. Surv. & Raptor Res. Center, Boise State Univ., Boise, ID 83709 (Movements of 17 pelicans radio-tagged in Nevada during the breeding seasons of 1996 and 1997 were documented to several western US states and Mexico, sometimes substantial distances in a few days.) MKM

Eurasian Collared-Dove nest with two broods in Delisle, SK. C. S. Houston and E. M. Hedlin. 2006. *Blue Jay* 64:106-107. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7J 5C7 (One surviving young

from the first brood was banded and seen at a nearby feeding station after fledging. A bird from the second nesting was attacked on fledging by a Sharp-shinned Hawk, but revived and was also banded. Subsequent observations at the feeder showed that it survived for at least another week.) MKM

Comparative productivity of American Black Ducks and Mallards nesting in agricultural landscapes of southern Quebec. C. Maisonneuve, R. McNeil and A. Derosiers. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23:378-387. Canards Illimitées, 710 rue Bouvier, Bureau 260, Quebec, QC G2J1C2 (Modified decoy traps were used to capture and radio-mark 33 hen Mallards and 29 hen American Black Ducks during 1994-1996. Observations of radio-marked females showed that both species avoid agricultural fields for early nesting, but will re-nest in them, after cover has grown, if the first nest is lost. Distances between site of capture and nest-site and between first nests and re-nests did not differ statistically between species. Survival rates of females were similar in both species. Radio-tracking of nesting hens determined numbers of days each nest survived. Nesting success of black ducks was highest in peatlands. Outside of peatlands, nesting efforts of Mallards were almost twice those of black ducks.) MKM

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

The loss of a brood and production of a replacement clutch in Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. J. W. Pearce-Higgins. 1988. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 85:39-40. School of Biol. Sci., 3.239 Stopford Bldg., Univ. Manchester, Oxford Rd., Manchester M13 9PT, UK. (The behavior of a color-banded pair of plovers indicated that their chicks had hatched, but three days later they showed no evidence of protecting a brood. Later in the same breeding season, the male was flushed from another clutch which did not hatch subsequently. Observations of other color-banded pairs showed that at least some remain on their territories up to 28 days after nest failure.) MKM

Red Knots *Calidris canutus rufa* and other shorebirds on the north-central coast of Brazil in April and May 1997. J. R. Wilson, A. A. F. Rodrigues and D. M. Graham. 1998. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 85:41-45. 13/27 Giles St., Kingston,

ACT 2604, Australia (Data on shorebirds counted at various coastal locations in Brazil included sightings on Maiau Island on 30 Apr 1977 of a bird color-banded in Tierra del Fuego in 1995 and another banded in the US at an unspecified location. Brief notes are included on numbers of knots and Ruddy Turnstones banded in 1992 and 1997, with notes on their mass.) MKM

The breeding habitat of Broad-billed Sandpipers *Limicola falcinellus* in northern Norway, with notes on breeding ecology and biometrics. R. Rae, I. Francis, K.-B. Strann and S. Nilssen. 1998. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 85:51-54. 11 Millend, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 0AW, Scotland (Evidence for some site fidelity between years was obtained by retrapping in 1995 a male banded at the same site in 1994. A female caught and color-banded at a nest in 1994 had been banded previously during migration in Sivash, Ukraine. She showed less site fidelity than the other retrapped bird by showing up in 1966 at a fen 5 km from the 1964 site. Data on tarsus plus toe, bill length and mass of eight chicks and on wing length, tarsus plus toe, bill length, head length and mass of ten breeding adults caught near nests or broods are tabulated.) MKM

An overview of Australia's international and domestic activities to conserve migratory shorebirds. J. Ferris, V. Cronan and K. Mullen. 2005. *Wetland Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:7-13. Australian Govt. Dept. Environ. & Heritage, GPO Box 787, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia. (Recoveries of Australian banded birds have provided longevity records of 13 years for Eastern Curlew, 14 years for Great Knot and 16 years for Terek Sandpiper. The Australian Wader Studies Group helped in the development of a multi-country color-flagging protocol for studying migration of shorebirds in the East Asia-Australasian Flyway.) MKM

Managing the Hooded Plover—information gaps and research needs. M. A. Weston. 2005. *Wetland Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:24-31. Birds Australia, 415 Riverdale Rd., Hawthorn East, 3123, Australia (A thorough review of the literature on Hooded Plovers indicated that 8.0% of the publications and 6% of the studies deal with banding and/or sex determination.) MKM

Gains and losses in the New Zealand Shore Plover (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*) recovery programme 1993-2003. J. E. Dowding, R. Collen, A. M. Davis, S. M. O'Connor and M. H. Smith. 2005. *Wetland Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:36-42. DM Consultants, Box 36-274, Merivale, Christchurch 8030, New Zealand (Observations of banded birds has helped monitor the small natural breeding population and new introduced populations of this endangered species. Color bands have helped document a growing proportion of males in one population.) MKM

Measuring recruitment of shorebirds with telescopes: a pilot study of age proportions on Australian non-breeding grounds. D. I. Rogers, K. G. Rogers and M. A. Barter. 2005. *Wetland Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:63-85. Johnstone Centre, Charles Sturt Univ., Box 789, Albany, NSW 2640, Australia (Comparison of age ratios of Red-necked Stints, Curlew Sandpipers and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers near Melbourne determined through observations obtained through telescopes with in-hand determinations of cannon-netted birds indicate that ages of pre-molting birds on their wintering grounds can be determined accurately through scopes.) MKM

Monitoring shorebird breeding productivity by the percentage of first year birds in populations of first year birds in populations in S.E. Australia non-breeding areas. C. Minton, R. Jessop, P. Collins and K. Gosbell. 2005. *Wetlands Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:73-85. 164 Dalgetty Rd., Beaumaris, VIC 3193, Australia (Age ratio data from 26 years of mid-November to mid-March [end February for Curlew and Sharp-tailed sandpipers] banding by the Victorian Wader Study Group showed marked year-to-year variation in age ratios of wintering birds, with only limited synchrony among species. The best correlations were between Red-necked Stints and Curlew Sandpipers and between Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings. Red-necked Stints showed a three-year cycle for several years, but this broke down in the 1990s. Data from cannon-netting were used in the analysis rather than those from mist-netting, as the latter generally caught a higher proportion of juveniles.) MKM

What have we learned from banding and flagging waders in Australia? C. Minton. 2005. *Wetlands Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:116-142. 164 Dalgetty Rd., Beaumaris, VIC 3193, Australia (History of shorebird banding in Australia with summary of significant recoveries of Australia-banded shorebirds and of shorebirds banded elsewhere and recovered in Australia. Although banding of shorebird chicks started when banding was introduced to Australia in 1953, large scale shorebird banding began in the 1970s with the introduction of mist nets and cannon nets. Minton lists 11 major shorebird banding efforts over about 45 years and tabulates totals of 41 species banded by 14 groups or individuals. At least 254,953 migratory shorebirds were banded in Australia during that time, as well as 10,698 birds of 14 resident species. These totals probably miss 2000-4000 migratory birds banded before records were coordinated, but Minton was able to obtain numbers from most earlier efforts from the banders. Since 1990, about 126,000 of these were also color leg-flagged. The recovery rate for Australia as a whole is 0.21%, 0.32% for NW Australia, and 0.12% for SE Australia. Sightings of flag-banded shorebirds overseas were 30 times higher than recoveries of birds banded in SE Australia, while birds flag-banded in NW Australia were sighted 5.4% higher than recoveries of banded birds. Flags on Australian-banded shorebirds have been reported from 16 Asian countries, more often during northward migration than southward. Overseas banding recoveries and/or sightings of flagged birds are mapped for ten species. A table lists numbers of recoveries in 16 countries of 534 birds of 20 species banded in Australia and another lists 150 recoveries in Australia of 13 species banded in 11 other countries. These totals include two Australian-banded Bar-tailed Godwits recovered in Alaska and one each of Pacific Golden-Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit banded in Alaska and recovered in Australia. Similar data are tabulated for sightings of flagged birds, as well as more detailed tabulations of birds marked/ recovered in regions of Australia, of months of sightings and other details. Of 763 flagged Bar-tailed Godwits seen elsewhere, 150 were observed in Alaska, the same as in Korea and second only to the number [300] seen in New Zealand.) MKM

Shorebird studies in Taiwan. C.-Y. Chiang and W.-T. Liu. 2005. *Wetlands Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:143-146. Taiwan Wader Study Group, Box 818, Tunghai Univ., Taichung 407, Taiwan, Republic of China (Shorebird studies in Changhua County over the last ten years include monthly banding. Observers have also been watching for flagged shorebirds since 2000. Recoveries of color-banded Kentish [Snowy] Plovers in 2002-2003 showed that at least some of the breeding pairs are resident in Taiwan.) MKM

Are populations of migratory shorebirds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway at risk of decline? D. Milton, C. Milton and K. Gosbell. 2005. *Wetlands Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Wader Studies* 17:153-157. 336 Prout Rd., Burbank, Qld 4156, Australia (Of 9,410 Bar-tailed Godwits banded in northwestern Australia between 1982 and 2003, 974 [10.4%] were recaptured during the same period. Of 15,243 Great Knots banded in northwestern Australia during the same years, 1,829 [12%] were recaptured at least once. Of 11,780 Curlew Sandpipers caught and banded in Victoria between 1978 and 2000, 3,833 [33%] were one-year old birds. Between 1975 and 2000, 78,096 known-aged Red-necked Stints were captured and banded in Australia, of which 16,315 [21%] were Age 1 birds. These data and annual variations in them were used to construct models of apparent population trends. Data needed to test the ability of the model to track population trends in each species are discussed.) MKM

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper on the edge: a review of breeding distribution, population estimates and plans for conservation research in Russia. E. Syroechkovski. 2005. *Wetlands Internatl. Global Ser. 18/ Internatl. Global Ser.* 18:169-174. Inst. for Ecol. & Evolution, Russian Acad. of Sciences, Leninsky prospect 33, IPEE RAS 119071, Moscow, Russia. (Observations of color-marked birds at Belyaka Spit, Koluchin Peninsula, are helping to monitor nesting success and a long-term decline of this scarce species.) MKM

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl