
Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

BSC people profile Julie Bauer. Anonymous. 2011. *BirdWatch Canada* 56:2. c/o Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (Brief biography of Yukon bander, who has banded Snow Geese along Nunavut coast of Hudson Bay, participated in re-introducing Peregrine Falcons to southern Alberta and banded birds at three sites in the Yukon. A Common Redpoll captured in December 2010 in YT had been banded in MI in March 2008). MKM

Distinguished Ornithologist Award 2011 David Brewer. R. Pittaway, R. Tozer and B. Crins. 2011. *OFO [Ontario Field Ornithologists] Newsletter* 29(2):3. 4 Anson St., Box 619, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 (Brief biography of British-born and trained bander, who has banded numerous birds in Ontario since 1971, has served as president of the Ontario Bird Banding Association, served on the board of the Long Point Bird Observatory, was the senior author of the "Canadian Atlas of Bird Banding" and received the Ontario Bird Banding Association's Janette Dean Award in 2001. In addition to these contributions to banding, he has also served on and chaired the Ontario Bird Records Committee, contributed to two Ontario breeding bird atlas projects and published numerous articles, notes and book reviews, as well as a book on the birds of Ontario's Wellington County and another on wrens, dippers and thrashers.) MKM

LPBO wardens: where are they now? –Dawn Burke. Anonymous. 2011. *BirdWatch Canada* 55:23. c/o Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (Brief biographical notes on former Long Point Bird Observatory warden and Thunder Cape Bird Observatory bander, now working as an ecologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.) MKM

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Is the behaviour of Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata* significantly affected by the attachment of radio telemetry equipment? C. Coombes, A. Wilson and R. Dehaan. 2009. *Corella* 33:35-38. Charles Sturt Univ., Inst. for Land, Water & Soc., School of Environ. Sci., Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678, Australia (Of 12 juvenile Malleefowl captured, anaesthetised, weighed, banded and blood sampled, six were fitted with transmitters and six were not. Their foraging, moving, preening and resting behaviors in captivity showed no statistically significant differences. However, transmitters were retained too briefly and sample sizes too small to provide definitive conclusions.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

An aberrant plumaged Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* with a white neck-ring. P.J. Guay. 2010. *Corella* 35:57-58. School of Engineering & Science and Inst. for Sustainability & Innovation, Victoria Univ.–St. Albans, Box 14428, Melbourne MC, VIC 8001, Australia (Photograph and description of partial neck ring on a male Chestnut Teal collected from a hunter's bag in Tasmania in 2006. The only previous record of a partial neck ring on this species was on a male collected in New South Wales in 1974. Reasons why this record more likely represents an expression of an atavistic phenotype from this teal's close ancestral relationship with Brown Teals than hybridization between a Chestnut Teal and an introduced Mallard or haphazard leucism are discussed.) MKM

Nikon photo quiz. W. D'Anna. 2011. *OFO [Ontario Field Ornithologists] News* 29(2):16. c/o Box 455, Station R, Toronto, ON M4G 4E1 (Review of features distinguishing juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher and juvenile Stilt Sandpiper in a photo from other Ontario sandpiper species.) MKM

Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

BSC people profile Julie Bauer. Anonymous. 2011. *BirdWatch Canada* 56:2. c/o Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (Brief biography of Yukon bander, who has banded Snow Geese along Nunavut coast of Hudson Bay, participated in re-introducing Peregrine Falcons to southern Alberta and banded birds at three sites in the Yukon. A Common Redpoll captured in December 2010 in YT had been banded in MI in March 2008.) MKM

Distinguished Ornithologist Award 2011 David Brewer. R. Pittaway, R. Tozer and B. Crins. 2011. *OFO [Ontario Field Ornithologists] Newsletter* 29(2):3. 4 Anson St., Box 619, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 (Brief biography of British-born and trained bander, who has banded numerous birds in Ontario since 1971, has served as president of the Ontario Bird Banding Association, served on the board of the Long Point Bird Observatory, was the senior author of the "Canadian Atlas of Bird Banding" and received the Ontario Bird Banding Association's Janette Dean Award in 2001. In addition to these contributions to banding, he has also served on and chaired the Ontario Bird Records Committee, contributed to two Ontario breeding bird atlas projects and published numerous articles, notes and book reviews, as well as a book on the birds of Ontario's Wellington County and another on wrens, dippers and thrashers.) MKM

LPBO wardens: where are they now? –Dawn Burke. Anonymous. 2011. *BirdWatch Canada* 55:23. c/o Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (Brief biographical notes on former Long Point Bird Observatory warden and Thunder Cape Bird Observatory bander, now working as an ecologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.) MKM

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Is the behaviour of Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata* significantly affected by the attachment of radio telemetry equipment? C. Coombes, A. Wilson and R. Dehaan. 2009. *Corella* 33:35-38. Charles Sturt Univ., Inst. for Land, Water & Soc., School of Environ. Sci., Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678, Australia (Of 12 juvenile Malleefowl captured, anaesthetised, weighed, banded and blood sampled, six were fitted with transmitters and six were not. Their foraging, moving, preening and resting behaviors in captivity showed no statistically significant differences. However, transmitters were retained too briefly and sample sizes too small to provide definitive conclusions.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

An aberrant plumaged Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* with a white neck-ring. P.J. Guay. 2010. *Corella* 35:57-58. School of Engineering & Science and Inst. for Sustainability & Innovation, Victoria Univ.–St. Albans, Box 14428, Melbourne MC, VIC 8001, Australia (Photograph and description of partial neck ring on a male Chestnut Teal collected from a hunter's bag in Tasmania in 2006. The only previous record of a partial neck ring on this species was on a male collected in New South Wales in 1974. Reasons why this record more likely represents an expression of an atavistic phenotype from this teal's close ancestral relationship with Brown Teals than hybridization between a Chestnut Teal and an introduced Mallard or haphazard leucism are discussed.) MKM

Nikon photo quiz. W. D'Anna. 2011. *OFO [Ontario Field Ornithologists] News* 29(2):16. c/o Box 455, Station R, Toronto, ON M4G 4E1 (Review of features distinguishing juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher and juvenile Stilt Sandpiper in a photo from other Ontario sandpiper species.) MKM

Nikon photo quiz. S. Leckie. 2009. *OFO [Ontario Field Ornithologists] News* 27(2):15-16. c/o Box 455, Station R, Toronto, ON M4G 4E1 (Review of features of breeding plumage and nesting habits helping to distinguish nesting Least Flycatchers from other passerine species breeding in southern Ontario.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING

A bird in the hand—the Gray Jays of Algonquin Park. G. Belyea and A. MacKenzie. 2011. *Trail & Landscape* 45:128-132. c/o Ottawa Field-Nat. Club, Box 35069, Ottawa, ON K1Z 1A2 (Summary of the findings to date of Dan Strickland on a color-banding project in Ontario's largest provincial park. Aspects of this comprehensive life history study that are based primarily on observations of banded birds include annual mortality rate [about 20%], longevity [often 12 years, up to at least 16 years], seasonal mortality rate [highest in summer], territory size, strong site and territory tenacity, and the role of young from previous broods helping to feed those of current broods. Most jays are banded as nestlings, some as adults caught in a modified squirrel live-trap. Park visitors interested in participating in the study are given sheets of family groups with their band combinations on them.) MKM

The importance of non-anonymous birds. Encounters with banded owls. J. Duncan. 2011. *Nature Manitoba News* 3(4):1 & 5. Box 253, Balmoral, MB R0C 0H0 (Examples of nest-site tenacity, longevity, year-round residency, and movements of Barred, Burrowing and Great Gray owls banded and recaptured in Manitoba by Herb Copland, Jim and Patsy Duncan, Alex Froese, Bob Nero and/or Todd Whilko.) MKM

Hope arrives on Mackenzie River breeding grounds. Anonymous. 2011. *Bird Studies Canada Latest News* 8 July 2011:1. c/o Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (A Whimbrel was tracked from its wintering area on the eastern shore of Virginia on 22 May to its breeding area slightly south of the Beaufort Sea, nearly 6,000 km away, on 14 Jun, the third year in a row that it has followed this route. Three other

Whimbrels wintering on the Virginia coast were tracked to areas west of Hudson Bay.) MKM

Boreal Owl monitoring in the Nisbet Forest: 2010 yields first breeding record. H. Fisher. 2011. *Blue Jay* 69:98-99. R.R. 4, Site 1, Comp 231, Prince Albert, SK S6V 5R2 (During call-playback/netting operations in the autumns of 2007-2010 for Northern Saw-whet Owls, 31 Boreal Owls were netted and banded in 2008-2010, with six captured in 160 nights in Sep-Oct and 25 in 48 nights from Nov-Jan. Suspicion that some of these birds may involve local nesters caused the researchers to enlarge entrance holes of nest-boxes placed out for saw-whet owls in the area. In early May 2010, a Boreal Owl was in one of them, and banding of two young on 27 May helped document one of the southern-most known nestings in Saskatchewan.) MKM

Environmental contaminants in tissues of Bald Eagles sampled in southwestern Montana, 2006-2008. A.R. Harmata. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:119-135. Ecol. Dept., Montana State Univ., Bozeman, MT 59717 (Blood and feathers of eagles banded as nestlings, captured free-flying or submitted for rehabilitation were sampled for lead, mercury, organochlorines and seven trace elements and concentrations analyzed by age-class and season. Five eagles were recaptured up to 18 years after banding and examined for changes in concentrations of each contaminant.) MKM

Productivity of Ospreys, *Pandion halietus*, affected by water levels, near Loon Lake, Saskatchewan, 1975-2002. C.S. Houston, F. Scott and R.B. Tether. 2010. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 124:219-222. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 3J6 (Numbers of young banded each year at 14 named lakes and several smaller water bodies provided a measure of Osprey productivity, with greater success in the eastern half of the study area with more stable water levels than in the less stable western half. The captions for figures 2 and 3, illustrating numbers of successful nests per year and numbers of young banded each year are switched. A table lists various nest parameters, numbers of young banded, and productivity features on each lake over the study period.) MKM

Nikon photo quiz. S. Leckie. 2009. *OFO* [Ontario Field Ornithologists] *News* 27(2):15-16. c/o Box 455, Station R, Toronto, ON M4G 4E1 (Review of features of breeding plumage and nesting habits helping to distinguish nesting Least Flycatchers from other passerine species breeding in southern Ontario.) MKM

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING

A bird in the hand—the Gray Jays of Algonquin Park. G. Belyea and A. MacKenzie. 2011. *Trail & Landscape* 45:128-132. c/o Ottawa Field-Nat. Club, Box 35069, Ottawa, ON K1Z 1A2 (Summary of the findings to date of Dan Strickland on a color-banding project in Ontario's largest provincial park. Aspects of this comprehensive life history study that are based primarily on observations of banded birds include annual mortality rate [about 20%], longevity [often 12 years, up to at least 16 years], seasonal mortality rate [highest in summer], territory size, strong site and territory tenacity, and the role of young from previous broods helping to feed those of current broods. Most jays are banded as nestlings, some as adults caught in a modified squirrel live-trap. Park visitors interested in participating in the study are given sheets of family groups with their band combinations on them.) MKM

The importance of non-anonymous birds. Encounters with banded owls. J. Duncan. 2011. *Nature Manitoba News* 3(4):1 & 5. Box 253, Balmoral, MB R0C 0H0 (Examples of nest-site tenacity, longevity, year-round residency, and movements of Barred, Burrowing and Great Gray owls banded and recaptured in Manitoba by Herb Copland, Jim and Patsy Duncan, Alex Froese, Bob Nero and/or Todd Whilko.) MKM

Hope arrives on Mackenzie River breeding grounds. Anonymous. 2011. *Bird Studies Canada Latest News* 8 July 2011:1. c/o Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (A Whimbrel was tracked from its wintering area on the eastern shore of Virginia on 22 May to its breeding area slightly south of the Beaufort Sea, nearly 6,000 km away, on 14 Jun, the third year in a row that it has followed this route. Three other

Whimbrels wintering on the Virginia coast were tracked to areas west of Hudson Bay.) MKM

Boreal Owl monitoring in the Nisbet Forest: 2010 yields first breeding record. H. Fisher. 2011. *Blue Jay* 69:98-99. R.R. 4, Site 1, Comp 231, Prince Albert, SK S6V 5R2 (During call-playback/netting operations in the autumns of 2007-2010 for Northern Saw-whet Owls, 31 Boreal Owls were netted and banded in 2008-2010, with six captured in 160 nights in Sep-Oct and 25 in 48 nights from Nov-Jan. Suspicion that some of these birds may involve local nesters caused the researchers to enlarge entrance holes of nest-boxes placed out for saw-whet owls in the area. In early May 2010, a Boreal Owl was in one of them, and banding of two young on 27 May helped document one of the southern-most known nestings in Saskatchewan.) MKM

Environmental contaminants in tissues of Bald Eagles sampled in southwestern Montana, 2006-2008. A.R. Harmata. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:119-135. Ecol. Dept., Montana State Univ., Bozeman, MT 59717 (Blood and feathers of eagles banded as nestlings, captured free-flying or submitted for rehabilitation were sampled for lead, mercury, organochlorines and seven trace elements and concentrations analyzed by age-class and season. Five eagles were recaptured up to 18 years after banding and examined for changes in concentrations of each contaminant.) MKM

Productivity of Ospreys, *Pandion halietus*, affected by water levels, near Loon Lake, Saskatchewan, 1975-2002. C.S. Houston, F. Scott and R.B. Tether. 2010. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 124:219-222. 863 University Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7N 3J6 (Numbers of young banded each year at 14 named lakes and several smaller water bodies provided a measure of Osprey productivity, with greater success in the eastern half of the study area with more stable water levels than in the less stable western half. The captions for figures 2 and 3, illustrating numbers of successful nests per year and numbers of young banded each year are switched. A table lists various nest parameters, numbers of young banded, and productivity features on each lake over the study period.) MKM

Migration monitoring at Last Mountain Bird Observatory—a Nature Saskatchewan special publication. A.R. Smith. 2011. *Nature Views* 167:11. 318–113th St. W., Saskatoon, SK S7N 2L2 (Over 70,000 birds of 119 species were banded at Last Mountain Lake, SK, during the first 21 years of banding there. Over 600 feathers from 14 species have been collected for stable isotope analysis. To date, 7000 birds of 22 species banded at LMBO have returned to the banding site.) MKM

Patterns in movement, captures, and phenology of Sharp-shinned Hawks in central coastal California. S. Culliney and T. Gardali. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:160–167. Colorado State Univ., 1474 Campus Delivery, 109 Wagar, Fort Collins, CO 80523 (Of 452 Sharp-shinned Hawks captured from 1979 to 2006 at Point Reyes, CA, 83% were young males, 6% adult males, 6% young females and less than 1% adult females, a male bias not found at nearby Golden Gate Bird Observatory. Of these, 42 birds were recaptured [in 56 recaptures], as were four originally captured 24 km southeast of the banding site. Birds were captured every month, peaking in the fall from late Sep. to mid-Nov. Capture rate increased significantly as the study progressed. Genders of birds captured were determined by wing-chord, age by plumage and eye color.) MKM

Last Mountain Bird Observatory—spring 2011 banding summary. A.R. Smith. 2011. *Nature Views* 167:11. 318–113th St. W., Saskatoon, SK S7N 2L2 (Banding in the twenty-second spring of coverage at this Saskatchewan observatory was daily from 9–31 May; 1446 net-hours resulted in the capture of 677 newly banded birds of a record high 59 species, highlighted by the first Wood Thrush banded in Saskatchewan and the first starlings banded at LMBO. A 2005-banded Western Kingbird estimated to be six yrs, 10 mo old when recaptured in 2011 was one month younger than the longevity record for that species to date.) MKM

Last Mountain Bird Observatory—spring 2009 summary of banding results. A.R. Smith. 2009. *Nature Views* 159:8. 318–113th St. W., Saskatoon, SK S7N 2L2 (Netting during the 20th consecutive

spring at Last Mountain Lake, SK, resulted in 371 newly banded birds of 41 species, lower individual and species totals than usual. A male Eastern Kingbird banded as an adult in 2001 was at least nine years old when recaptured in 2009. A Brown Creeper brought the captured species total for the site to 92, while 56 Least Flycatchers attained the highest species total.) MKM

Greater Sage-Grouse conservation in the Dakotas: what are the issues? C. Swanson. 2011. *Great Plains Natural Science Society [Newsletter]* 1(3):9–12. U.S. Fish & Wildl. Serv., Kulm, ND (Mortality of radio-collared grouse in South Dakota was more than 50% from late July through September in 2006 and 2007, but survival during the rest of the year was close to 90%.) MKM

Noteworthy distributional records of birds from the Mackenzie region of central British Columbia, 1995–2009. V. Lambie. 2009. *Wildlife Afield* 6:123–138. Box 661, Mackenzie, BC V0J 2C0 (Details significant 1995–2009 distributional records of 25 species at a banding site at Mugaha Marsh, BC. Those for which banding was included in their documentation included Ash-throated Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Mountain Chickadee, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, Harris's Sparrow and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.) MKM

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) migratory route fidelity in an urban environment. V. Kleen. 2011. *Meadowlark* 20:47. Illinois Ornithol. Soc., Box 931, Lake Forest, IL 60045 (On 20 May 2009, a migratory Red-eyed Vireo was banded [number 1671-76838] as an adult at the Margery Adams Bird Banding Station, located on the east side of Springfield, IL. in a 40-ac [approx. 16 ha] plot surrounded by a highly developed urban area. Much of the site is regenerated woods and scrubby second-growth, much of it heavily infested with “invasive” plant species. Red-eyed Vireos are not known to breed on the site. The banded vireo was recaptured subsequently on 24 May 2010 and 24 May 2011. The timing of its capture in three consecutive years is remarkable.) GLG

Two new banding returns for Cedar Waxwings from Kansas. T.L. Flowers and E.J. Miller. 2011. *Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin* 62:46-47. Box 87, Meade, KS 67864 (A Cedar Waxwing banded as SY female on 6 Aug 2008 at Jackson, WY, by J. McCabe was recovered injured on 23 Feb 2011 in Coffeyville, KS, held for rehabilitation and released on 6 Sep 2011. A waxwing banded as HY on 25 Nov 2005 in Meade, KS, was recaptured on 29 Jul 2010 at Revelstoke, BC.) PL

NON-NORTH AMERICAN BANDING RESULTS

Seabird Islands [:] Penguin Islet, Furneaux Group, Tasmania. M.J. Carey, J.P. Thompson and D. Black. 2011. *Corella* 35:61-63. Dept. Environ. Mgmt. & Ecol., La Trobe Univ., Wodonga, Victoria, 3690, Australia. (The only birds banded on this islet to date were two Caspian and one White-fronted tern, with no recoveries to date.) MKM

Home-range size and territorial calling of Southern Boobooks (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) in adjacent territories. J. Olsen, J.A. Downs, T. Tucker and S. Trost. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:136-142. Inst. for Applied Ecol., Univ. of Canberra, ACT 2601, Adelaide, Australia (Observations of four Boobooks radio-tagged and color-banded in four nesting home-ranges near Canberra over 418 observation nights during four years showed considerable variation in core areas and amounts of time spent in them. Owls were caught in bal-chatri traps, a noose mounted on a surf-casting rod and fishing nets on extended poles. The owls spent considerable time outside their core areas within their home ranges, with much of their territorial calling near the borders of neighboring territories. Changes in sizes of home ranges and core areas among seasons and years were also documented.) MKM

Linear and stable dominance hierarchies in cooperative Carrion Crows. E. Chiarati, D. Canestrari, R. Vera, J.M. Marcos and V. Baglione. 2010. *Ethology* 116:346-356. Dept. Agro-forestry, Univ. of Valladolid, Spain. (Since 1995, all nestlings and 105 adults were banded and fitted

with patagial tags to study hierarchical relationships among cooperatively breeding adults, their offspring and immigrants in 29 territories in rural areas of northern Spain. No negative effects of patagial tags were observed. Hierarchical status of marked birds were assessed on the basis of a six-class scale of behavioral interactions at an experimental food source. Observations of marked birds showed that crows formed linear and stable dominance relationships that were stronger for males than females, with immigrants dominating offspring of the dominant pair. All males ranked higher in dominance than the most dominant females. Only one of 44 breeders studied to date has been younger than three years on first breeding.) MKM

Migratory connections: a trip to the Bicknell's Thrush wintering grounds. B. Stewart. 2011. *Birdlife Canada* 55:8-9. c/o Bird Studies Canada, Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 (During a meeting in the Dominican Republic of Bicknell's Thrush researchers from seven countries, 21 were captured in mist-nets, banded, aged, sexed and measured and blood and feather samples taken. Nine birds banded in previous winters were recaptured, as were two with geolocators from the previous winter.) MKM

Foraging habitat use and selection of Western Marsh-Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*) in intensive agricultural landscapes. L. Cardador and S. Manosa. 2011. *Journal of Raptor Research* 45:168-173. Dept. de Biol. Animal, Univ. de Barcelona, Facultat de Biol., Avinguda Diagonal 645, 08028 Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain (Seven male marsh-harriers in the Ebro Basin of the northern Iberian Peninsula were trapped in bal-chatri traps or a bow-net, fitted with backpack transmitters and radio-tracked from 2000-2003. Probability of occurrence within the study area decreased with distance from nest-site and increased in wetlands and herbaceous crops, with use of specific crops varying with crop stage and whether or not the crop was irrigated. All seven birds exhibited high site-tenacity both between and within years.) MKM

Bermuda Petrel translocation success. Anonymous. 2009. *Seabird Group Newsletter* 111:7. The Seabird Group, c/o BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford,

Norfolk 1P24 2PU, England (Four Bermuda Petrels [Cahows] prospecting nest sites on Nonsuch Island, Bermuda, in 2008 were identified by their tags as fully grown birds that were introduced as chicks there in 2008 and at least one pair bred successfully.) MKM

Note: Thanks to Phillip S. Henderson for a copy of the *Ethology* paper abstracted in this compilation. We apologize to abstractor W.D. "Bill" Loughman

that four proof-readings of the galleys of *NABB* 36(3) [two by the Literature Editor and one by each of the other editors] failed to notice that the e-mail gremlins changed his initials to WDS and his surname to Laughman, both of which were correct in the original manuscript. Thanks to Kay Loughman for pointing out these errors.

GLG = *Glenn L. Gabanski*

PL = *Peter Lowther*

MKM = *Martin K. McNicholl*

Books

DO HUMMINGBIRDS HUM? FASCINATING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS. By George C. West and Carol A. Butler. 2010. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey and London, England. xviii + 187 pp. soft cover.

One of my first bird books, given to me as a birthday present by an aunt in 1959, was an introduction to birds and ornithology by Allan D. and Helen G. Cruickshank (1958) written in the style of a series of questions, followed by answers, a reference that I continue to find useful decades later. The current book is the fourth in a series of modern-day equivalents on butterflies, bats, bees and now hummingbirds. Carol A Butler has co-authored all four, in this case collaborating with George C. West, well known to readers of *NABB* for numerous drawings scattered through many pages for several years. In the preface, we learn that West had banded more than 14,000 hummingbirds in southeastern Arizona by the time the book was written, amply qualifying him to co-author the book and guaranteeing that its focus would be on hummingbirds as seen through the eyes of a bander. In his acknowledgments, West reveals that Ruth Russell, long associated with the Western Bird Banding Association, was responsible for adding hummingbird banding to his bander training expertise.

The book is divided into nine chapters, four appendices, 16 pages of references and an index. The first chapter consists of nine questions and answers on "hummingbird basics," defining and classifying hummingbirds, as well as noting their

range in size and longevity. The second chapter covers 17 questions on "systems and senses," covering foraging, food, digestion, bill lengths, energy and the various senses, including a summary to date of growing evidence that the sense of smell is more important in at least some hummingbirds and other birds than believed previously and the question asked by the book's title. Nine questions cover "feathers and bones," including aspects of flight and color, in chapter 3. The fourth chapter, "Reproduction," covers aspects of courtship, mating, nesting and rearing young in 14 questions. Flight and migration are discussed in the five questions and answers of chapter 5. Thirty-four color photographs of 33 species enhance the center of the book. "Dangers and defenses," including predators, parasites, diseases and both natural and human environmental hazards are covered in eight questions and answers in the sixth chapter. The seventh chapter covers "attracting and feeding" in ten questions. Chapter eight is labeled "Identifying and photographing," but its seven questions also include captivity and a table of hummingbird occurrences in North America—regular parts of the ranges of those that occur regularly plus some extralimital locations (though a footnote indicates that "hundreds of scattered records" are not included). The ninth and final chapter, "research and conservation" covers the degree of threatendness of hummingbirds, their economic importance through pollination and ecotourism, and four questions on the purposes and methods of banding. The appendices cover garden plants attractive to hummingbirds, some places to see live hummingbirds in captivity, hummingbird organizations and a selection of references and web-sites. The