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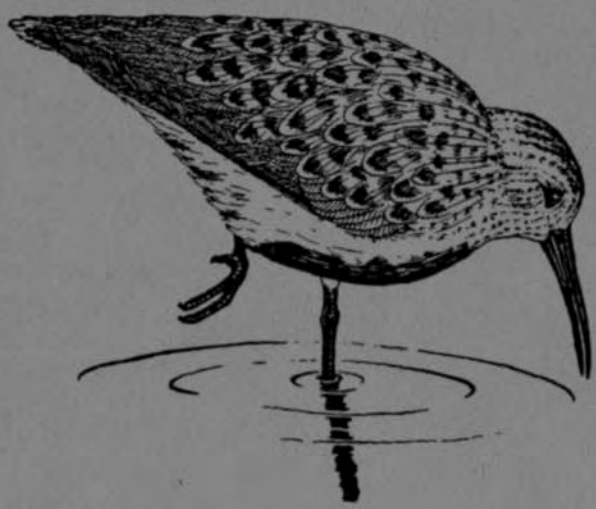

Prince Edward Point Observatory

1983 Report

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PRINCE EDWARD POINT OBSERVATORY[1]

BANDING YEAR 1983

Helen R. Quilliam[2]

During 1983 the banding of ducks on Amherst Island continued as well as the autumn program of Saw-whet Owl banding at Prince Edward Point. On Amherst Island Marnie Matthews banded 990 ducks as follows:

American Black Duck	40
Blue-winged Teal	143
Gadwall	8
Green-winged Teal	44
Mallard	667
Mallard x Black Duck Hybrid	2
Northern Pintail	12
Redhead	72
Wood Duck	2

Ninety-four notices were received during the 1983 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of ducks recovered (shot or trapped and released alive) from locations other than Marnies's banding station on Amherst Island. A brief summary of these recoveries follows:

Mallard. 66 recoveries. Of these 27 were shot within one degree of latitude (110 km) and one degree longitude (80 km) of Amherst Island. We shall refer to these as local recoveries here and in the accounts of other species that follow. Of the 27 local recoveries, 23 were shot within the same autumn as they were banded. All but one were young (HY) birds, 13 male and 10 female. The other 4 were shot, one each 2, 3, 4 and 5 years after banding. General locations of those recovered elsewhere were:

Northeast - 2	Southeast - 9	South - 7
Southwest - 11	West - 1	Northwest - 5

The Mallards recovered in the northwest and west were some of the oldest of the Mallards banded at Amherst Island as well as being the furthest away from their original banding site.

TABLE 1

Banded	Age	Sex	Recovered		Direction	Lat.	Long.
Aug 1981	HY	M	Oct 1983	Minnesota	W	440	0914
Sep 1981	HY	M	Sep 1982	S. Dakota	NW	454	0981
Sep 1981	HY	M	Oct 1982	N. Dakota	NW	481	0982
Oct 1977	HY	M	May 1983	Minnesota	NW	481	0955[1]
Aug 1979	HY	M	Sep 1983	S. Dakota	NW	483	1004[2]
Aug 1979	AHY	F	Oct 1983	Minnesota	NW	454	0943

1. The oldest Mallard.
2. The most distant Mallard in recent recoveries.

1. Reprinted from Blue Bill Supplement 31: 20-24, 1984.
2. 161 Willingdon Avenue, Kingston, ON. K7L 4H9.

Since Mallards were always previously thought of as western ducks it would be interesting to know where they had been in other years. Note that all but one of these were male, that Mallards mate on the wintering grounds and that the males follow the females to the nesting area. Because of banding dates it would appear that these HY birds were hatched in the NW. None of the birds reported from the southwest was recovered as far west as those above.

American Black Duck. We have only 8 recoveries of Black Ducks, a ratio of 1 Black to 8.2 Mallards. Total bandings of these 2 species in 1983 showed an even lower ratio of Blacks, only 1 to every 16.7 Mallards. A review of previous years of banding will be undertaken presently in an effort to document the decline of Black Ducks in this area.

Strangely enough, of these 8 recoveries only one was from the same season as banded and that was a HY F in Michigan, SW of Amherst Island and also the most distant location of a Black Duck from this area. Recoveries were: Local - 3; South - 2; Southeast - 2 and Southwest - 1. This is pretty much as should be expected since Black Ducks have always been considered eastern ducks. The oldest of these Black Ducks was an AHY M banded September 1976 and shot on Amherst Island in October 1983.

Redhead. The Redheads banded have all been hand-reared and released on Amherst Island after banding. The three recoveries were all from the same season after banding, one from Sandy Pond, N.Y.(S), Pt. Pelee (SW), and just south of James Bay (NW).

Wood Duck. Not many Wood Ducks were banded each year previously so it is not surprising that there are only 2 recoveries.

Banded Aug 1979 recovered Virginia Oct 1982
Aug 1982 recovered North Carolina Jan 1983 (Winter quarters?)

Blue-winged Teal. 5 recoveries. An AHY F banded Aug 1979 was shot March 1983 at Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela, probably on wintering grounds. Another was shot 2 years after banding and a third in Illinois in the same year as it was banded. Two others were shot locally.

Green-winged Teal. 9 recoveries. Three were recovered from probable wintering grounds in January in Georgia, Louisiana and South Carolina, all 3 locations SW of Amherst Island. Five were shot locally, 3 of these in the same season as banded and two a year later. The ninth was shot at Rondeau WMA just a month after being banded.

RETRAPS

During the banding season Marnie Matthews encountered ducks in her trap that had been banded in previous years on Amherst Island as well as 4 trapped elsewhere.

Mallard. 4 trapped and released. Three of these had been banded in August 1983 at Stone Mills, N.Y. (north of Watertown). One was trapped 4 days later at Amherst Island and two a month later. The fourth Mallard banded August 28, 1982 was retrapped exactly one year later there.

Green-winged Teal. 2 retrapped a year later.

Blue-winged Teal. 2 banded at Seaforth, Ont. were at Amherst Island the same autumn.

Pintail. 1 banded as an AHY F January 26, 1982 at Yarmouth Port, Mass. was trapped and released on Amherst Island September 1, 1983.

Although some hand-reared Canada Geese and Mallards were banded on Amherst Island in 1975, banding with a trap set up on the shore of Lake Ontario did not begin until 1976. Since then banding there has been continuous and about 7350 ducks have been banded.

RECOVERIES, FOREIGN RETRAPS AND RETURNS

Ron Weir[1]

Although owls were the only non-waterfowl species banded in 1983, reports of recoveries, foreign recoveries and returns continue to be received. A Recovery in the table below is a bird banded under the PEPt Observatory Permit that was found dead or killed and reported to the Banding Office. A Foreign Retrap is a bird captured and released alive in a different 10-minute block from that in which it was originally banded. (It also includes birds banded elsewhere and captured under the PEPt permit). A Return is a bird banded at PEPt and encountered there again after 90 days or more.

The following codes from the Bird Banding Manual are used in Table 1:

Age	Sex	Present Condition
AHY - After Hatching Year	M - Male	03 - Dead
HY - Hatching Year	F - Female	04 - Dead, band left on leg
L - Local (nestling)	U - Unknown	05 - Dead
		07 - Released alive

How Obtained

00 - Found dead
01 - Shot
20 - Caught due to disease
28 - Caught by hand
52 - Band read by telescope
89 - Trapped and released
99 - Trapped and released in same 10-minute block where banded.

Column 2 and 3 : Age and Sex.

Column 8 and 9 : Distance (in Kilometres) and direction from banding location.

Column 10 and 11 : How obtained and present condition respectively.

1. 294 Elmwood Street, Kingston, ON. K7H 2Y8

	BANDED				RECOVERED					
Band No.	2	3	Date	Locat.	Date	Location	8	9	10	11
Ring-billed Gull										
704-06380	L	U	78-06-22	Pigeon Island	82-10-09	Russell, ON	NE	110	28	05
Herring Gull										
756-18110	L	U	77-06-14	"	83-07-21	Wolfe I., ON	SW	10	00	05
Caspian Tern										
704-07130	L	U	77-06-14	"	83-06-	High I., MI	WNW	700	52	07
805-52030	L	U	78-06-22	"	83-05-27	Beaver I., MI	WNW	740	00	05
-52282	L	U	81-06-11	"	82-11-21	Dominican Republic	SSE	2900	20	03
Black-billed Cuckoo										
832-43791	AHY	U	79-06-24	PEPt	83-07-21	El Salvador	SSW	3260	01	05
N. Saw-whet Owl										
614-14033	HY	M	80-10-03	"	83- -	Manitoulin I.	WNW	460	00	04
-26088	AHY	F	81-09-29	"	82-11-06	Cape May, NJ	SE	600	89	07
-30657	AHY	U	82-10-23	"	82-11-10	Cape May, NJ	SE	600	89	07
-26195	HY	U	81-09-30	"	83-10-20	PEPt	-	0	99	07
Great Crested Flycatcher										
791-34441	AHY	U	78-06-16	"	83-06-09	Hay Bay, ON	N	40	00	03
American Robin										
832-48510	AHY	F	81-06-03	"	83-10-23	PEPt	-	0	99	07

Ring-billed Gull. Total recoveries now number 26 of which 8 were from the Atlantic coast and 17 from NE of Kingston along the St. Lawrence or Ottawa Rivers. The six foreign retraps were found nesting on the Leslie Street Spit, Toronto.

Herring Gull. Found dead on Wolfe Island, this individual was in its seventh year and is our first recovery.

Caspian Tern. The six recoveries have been from Delaware, Virginia, Florida, Michigan and two from the Dominican Republic. The three foreign retraps were from Florida, Michigan and the Leslie Street Spit, Toronto.

Black-billed Cuckoo. This is the second recovery and the first from Central America. Of these, 13 were recoveries (dead), 11 were foreign retraps (alive) and 9 were returns to PEPt. By excluding the 410 banded at PEPt in autumn 1983 since it is too soon for any recoveries to be processed, the encounter rate is 33 in 3,182 or 1 in 96 (1%).

Northern Saw-whet Owl. Examining the numbers of Saw-whets banded at PEPt and encountered elsewhere, there are 10 direct encounters, i.e. no breeding season between banding and recovery dates as follows: 4 SW (Mich., Ark., sw Ont.(2)), 3 SE (coastal NJ (2), Conn.) and singles NE, N and NW of PEPt. By ignoring the time lapse between banding and encounter, there are 19 records of which 9 were SW, 4 SW, 2 SE, 1 N and 3 NW.

Great Crested Flycatcher. Our first recovery of this species and only 40 km from PEPt; this individual was in its seventh year at least. Perhaps it had made the return migratory journey to and from its tropical wintering grounds at least six times.

American Robin. This bird was one of 24 robins banded at PEPt in 1981 when it nested there. It likely nested there again in 1983.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL STUDIES

Ron Weir[1]

Northern Saw-whet Owls, Aegolius acadicus, were netted at Prince Edward Point for the ninth consecutive autumn. Banded were 410 bringing the cumulative total of bandings there to 3592 since 1975. In addition, one Saw-whet was caught wearing a band put on at PEPt in 1981. Coverage was maintained on 21 nights between September 22/23 and November 5/6. Nine nights were lost to rain and 13 to unfavourable winds. The control sites used for nets in previous years were used again to allow a comparison of the owl migration between years and between sites. See Weir (1981) for locations of control sites.

The distribution by age for 1983 is given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF N. SAW-WHET OWLS 1983

AHY	237	58.1%
HY	171	41.9%
U	3	
TOTAL	411	

A hatching year (HY) bird is known to be in the first calendar year of life and is identified by uniformly coloured and unworn flight feathers. After hatching year (AHY) includes any bird known to be in a calendar year after its first and is identified by the presence of two-tone coloured flight feathers.

The timing of the flight was later compared with the 8-year average. About 50 % of the birds passed through by October 18 (norm October 12) and 75 % by October 27 (norm October 19). This autumn saw 158 banded on the night of October 17/18. There were four other nights when more than 25 owls were caught viz. 1 x 57, 1 x 39, 1 x 33, 1 x 27. The Owl Index for the 1983 work is shown in Table 2. The index corrects for net area and for the number of nights that nets were opened.

1. 294 Elmwood Street, Kingston, ON. K7H 2Y8

TABLE 2

N. SAW-WHET OWL INDEX[1] 1983

Site	Index	Number of Owls Caught	Age Group (all sites)	Index	Number of Owls Caught
All sites	18.6	411	AHY	10.7	237
Cedar Woods	16.9	184	HY	7.73	171
Traverse (TR)	18.1	48			
Traverse (TR)	23.8	119			
NWA sign	19.4	59			

1. Owls per 1000 square metres of net per night.

A comparison of the Index for each year since 1976 for control sites only is presented in Table 3. These sites are in the Cedar Woods and Traverse.

TABLE 3

N. SAW-WHET OWL INDEX[1] 1976-1983

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1976-82 mean
AHY	4.7	3.3	3.6	3.6	8.4	8.6	7.0	11.2	5.7
HY	4.7	7.9	2.4	4.1	8.3	11.6	6.0	7.7	6.4
All owls	9.4	11.2	6.0	7.7	11.7	20.2	12.9	19.0	

1. Control sites - Cedar Woods and Traverse only.

Twelve banders worked one or more nights and were assisted by 84 workers. Another 95 visitors signed in including 60 Girl Guides and Brownies from the Picton area, 12 students from MacDonald College (Montreal), 12 students from Trent University Naturalists (Peterborough) and 11 Kingston Junior Naturalists.

Thanks are due to Canadian Wildlife Service for permission to carry out the work in the National Wildlife Area.

Reference:

Weir, R.D. 1981. Saw-whet Owl studies 1980. Ontario Bird Banding 14(1): 8-12.

BOOK REVIEWS

REDWINGS

by Robert W. Nero. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 1984. 160 pages.

I vividly recall reading Red-wing Blackbird behavior studies by Robert Nero when I first began subscribing to Auk and Wilson Bulletin in the early 1950s. And I remember thinking that if they were typical Auk and Wilson Bulletin papers, I had been missing something good and should have been subscribing to the journals earlier. Now, at long last, Bob Nero has pulled his Redwing writings together, expanded them with much more new, previously-unreported data, and given us a memorable book that is a behavior classic for the pros and a good, stimulating, enjoyable read for the rest of us.

"There is really nothing quite like a marsh in full bloom with birdlife on a sunny morning in May," Nero tells us, and before we get far into the book we are enthusiastically agreeing with him. Read it and you will never look at a Redwing marsh in the same way again; all that seemingly confused noisy, erratic activity will translate into meaning and have stories to tell.

Redwings have been Nero's major preoccupation for close to 40 years. He began studying them in a marsh on the University of Wisconsin grounds as a student, wrote his Ph.D. thesis on them, and then came to western Canada where he has been studying them ever since, although his most concentrated work was at the little Wingra Marsh at the University of Winconsin. He bolsters his own research with frequent references to the reports and findings of others, all of which is thoroughly documented with a 10-page bibliography.

He begins with an overview of the family Icteridae in which he compares the Redwing with other icterids and fits it into its taxonomic niche. It is the most widespread of the Icteridae and probably the most abundant bird species in North America, with a breeding population of 200 million which doubles each fall with the addition of young.

From his blind above Wingra Marsh he inevitably observed more than Redwings, and this is a story of a marsh as well as a story of Red-winged Blackbirds. He gives us many biological tidbits of other marsh-frequenting species -- bitterns, herons, rails, marsh wrens and human lovers in canoes.

But the main focus of the book, and Nero's major interest, is Redwing courtship and breeding behavior. As every birder knows, they are irrepressible songsters. Some highly vocal males have a song rate of 540 an hour. The song is usually accompanied by the familiar "song-spread" display in which wings and tail are arched and spread, head thrust forward, and feathers raised, especially the red wing coverts or epaulets. The song-spread display is directed mainly at other males for territorial defence, but has some role in recruiting females. Nero says it is often unnoticed and unreported that female Redwings are one of the few female songbirds that sing; however, their song is not the familiar oak-a-lea of the males, but chattering,

scolding notes, often sung as a duet with males.

Males seem to be well aware of their trademark, the red epaulets, which are an essential feature to communicate threat to rival males. When the epaulets are painted black, the males go into hiding, preen off the paint in a few days, and then reappear and reclaim their territories from other males that have taken over. But when the red feathers are dyed black, which cannot be preened off, more than half lose their territories to intruding males.

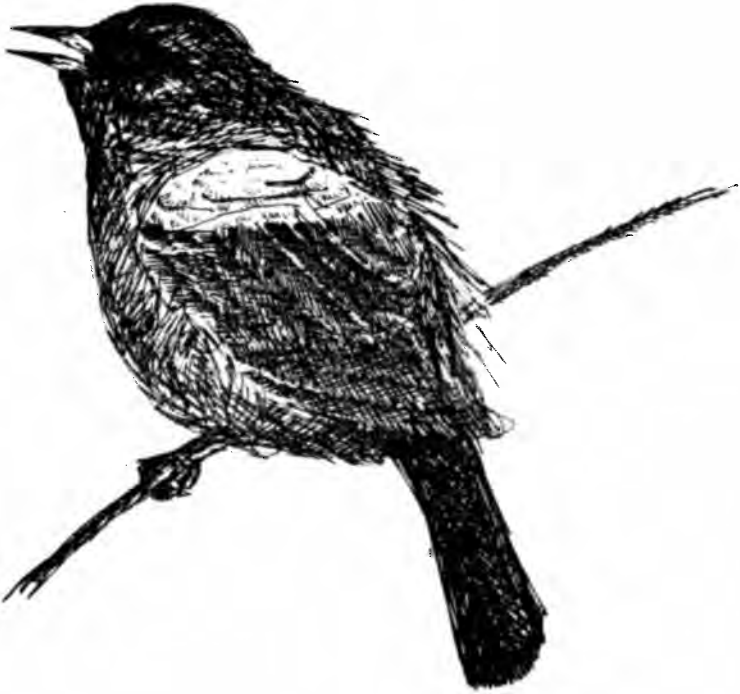
Territories average 60 feet square and with color banding Nero established that males return year after year to essentially the same territories. They know their territory boundaries precisely, and diligently respect those of their neighbors. Once Nero tried unsuccessfully for several days to trap one specific male, but the wanted bird refused to approach the trap. Nero began to suspect the trap was just outside its territory. He moved it a few feet and the desired male was in the trap within an hour.

There is always a floating population on the hunt for unoccupied territories. Once a male was in a trap less than a day and when Nero arrived in late afternoon to release it, three new males were already fighting over the territory. He took the trapped male home overnight, then went back and released it next morning. The three males were still fighting, but within half an hour the original owner had driven off all three and reclaimed his territory.

First-year males, identifiable by orange-red epaulets mottled with black, are vigorously driven off and rarely allowed to mate and breed in their second summer. First-year females, however, do breed, which creates an excess of females and polygynous mating. Of 25 males that Nero studied, 5 had one mate, 16 had two and 4 had three. Other workers have found <u>averages</u> of 6.5 females per male, and one gallant and redoubtable male had a harem of 33 females.

In similar fashion, always interestingly and sometimes lovingly, Nero covers such things as pair formation, courtship, sexual chasing, copulation, nest-building, flocking and roosting, relationships with other birds, and the annual cycle. In his experience, Redwings are not promiscuous, but he cites other studies that suggest they are. Only females build nests, but Nero says males may show off an old nest "as if to show the female what he has in mind." As for relations with other birds, he says Redwings are especially belligerent toward grackles and marsh wrens, but completely disinterested in cardinals.

Nero is a romantic and makes no bones about his belief that Redwings have considerable intelligence and powers of perception. They are capable of recognizing each other, apparently by small differences in appearance and behavior. Males recognize their neighbors, their own mates and their neighbors' mates, and show an immediate change in behavior whenever a strange Redwing appears. In nest moving or exchanging experiments, done when females were away foraging, a returning female would recognize the "location call" of her own young and find her own relocated nest immediately. One female that had been gone from a marsh caring for fledged young, returned after two weeks, was instantly recognized by her mate, and the male greeted her with great excitement, and eventually they had a successful second brood. Some of his Wingra Marsh males fed in a zoo about half a mile away and learned to arrive when it was time for the zoo animals to be fed. He used stuffed, dummy birds to elicit reactions, but he doubts that his Redwing actually thought the dummies were alive, he thinks they were just reacting to stimuli and were not



confused into thinking the dummies were real-life intruders.

One male knew Nero well and attacked him vigorously every time Nero entered the birds territory, often perching on his cap and pecking at his scalp. Nero once entered his blind where a friend was already present, then they left together, but with the friend now wearing Nero's cap. The Redwing attacked immediately, but he wasn't fooled by the cap switch. He ignored the friend and still attacked the now-bare-headed Nero.

"Clearly," says Nero, "birds are more than little machines."

Redwings have increased in recent years, and so have their depredations on crops. But Nero attributes the increase to greater acreages of crops, especially corn, and not, as sometimes suggested, to a switch in nesting from marshes to uplands. Redwings, he says, have always been upland as well as marsh nesters, capable of nesting anywhere from on the ground in hayfields to 20 feet up in trees far removed from water. With the draining of marshes and the clearing of forests, we have provided Redwings with more upland nesting opportunities, and hence more of them nest there, but they didn't have to learn any new tricks to do so.

The book is well indexed, has a number of color plates, black-and-white photos of display postures, maps, diagrams, and a large number of really splendid line drawings by James Carson.

It will leave you feeling that you know the Redwing very well.

Fred Bodsworth

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA.

edited by Shirley L. Scott. National Geographic Society Press, Washington, D.C., 1983, 464 Pages. Available from the above address or from Point Pelee Interpretive Centre, RR1, Leamington, ON.

After several years of preparation, the National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America has become available much to the delight of birders across the continent. This guide which encompasses over 800 species will surely set the standard for years to come and, indeed, may only be excelled by a revised edition of itself.

The introductory format is similar to the older field guides (Peterson and Golden) but contains thoroughly updated information. Particularly appealing are the colourful and detailed anatomical illustrations on pages 10 and 11 which are at once easy to read and concise. The same can be said of the introduction itself which should be perused by beginner and expert alike. For the most part, the

sequence of species is that of the most recent (1983) A.O.U. Checklist of North American birds with strict adherance to the latest nomenclature. The illustrations are on the pages opposite the text as in the Golden guide and the latest (1980) Peterson guide. The text includes the English and scientific names, overall lengths and wingspans of the birds, a thorough discussion of each species with particular emphasis on visual and aural identification and comparison with similar species. Also detailed are each species' general range and, in may cases, extralimital occurrence. A small range map accompanies the text for all but the rarest North American birds.

The guide leaves a generally solid impression for many reasons.

First of all, the text, incorporating many of the newly learned field characters of the past decade or so, is excellent. One of the two chief consultants, Jon Dunn of Santa Barbara, California, must be given much credit for this. He is reknowned for his expertise in plumages, variations, and confusing field problems. This is shown time and time again. Species accounts are lucid and to the point yet elaborate enough to appeal to birders of any level of experience.

Difficult field identification problems are well handled in a number of cases. An entire two pages are devoted to such concerns as Long-billed versus Short-billed Dowitcher, Great versus South Polar Skua, Mew versus Ring-billed Gull, Herring versus California Gull, Myiarchus flycatchers, and several different warbler groups. More recognizable races and plumages are considered both verbally and artistically than in any previous guide. The detailed handling of these many plumage types is a strong point and certainly demonstrates the intricacies of separating various forms.

The general layout of the guide is visually appealing with a nice balance of text to illustration. I am particularly impressed by the reproduction of the plates with their splendid, rich colour and razor-sharp detail. There is very little of the blurry images often found in other guides.

The artwork contributed by 13 different artists is, as a rule, good to excellent. The paintings are eye-pleasing and do not clutter the page. Background habitat is beautifully worked in, placing the species in question in suitable surroundings and making the portraiture genuine. T. R. Schutz's depictions of jaegers, gulls and terns under the direction of the other chief consultant Eirik A. T. Blom are in a word superb! To my mind, this is the finest treatment of any one family group ever presented in a field guide. The illustrations are accurate, stunningly true-to-life, and show virtually any age group that could be encountered in the field.

In the shorebird section a long overdue consideration is given to the fact that the group has three distinct plumages in most species: basic (winter), alternate (breeding) and juvenile. Earlier guides showed only winter and summer plumages and ignored the juvenile stage which, in many species, is most distinctive. Racial variations as well are neatly displayed by the portrayals of Lesser Golden Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher.

Other plates which impress me are the grebes, waterfowl, perching raptors, woodpeckers and many of the passerines, especially the wood-warblers and the diverse sparrow-bunting group.

The major complaint I have with the guide is the variation in style of the paintings. Obviously, the use of so many painters

invites this, since bird artists differ considerably in the way they want (or try) to make a bird appear. The somewhat stylised approach taken by several of the artists is at times misleading. The portraits of the swallows, swifts and cuckoos stand out in this respect. The shapes of the birds themselves are faulty, as shown by the swallows appearing heavy-set or dumpy, the swifts having overly slender wings and the cuckoos looking stretched. The poses taken by some species (a few of the herons for example) bring to mind the dramatic stances of birds in Audubon's paintings. Perhaps a style similar to that of Peterson's would be more advisable: it would certainly be more educational. Very down-to-earth with birds looking naturally posed, Peterson's artwork has always served, in my opinion, to educate the birder on what to look for in the field.

There are a few errors in the plates which may be of use to birders in Ontario.

The bill base and lore colour of the immature Little Blue Heron on page 51 should appear grayish rather than yellow (the yellow lore is diagnostic of Snowy Egret).

The heads of the flying immature accipiters on page 191 are much too small in relation to body size.

On page 193, the contrasting black border on the trailing edge of the underwing in the flying adult Broad-winged Hawk is not shown. This is an excellent field mark on birds overhead.

The body and head shapes of the Catharus thrushes on page 327 seem entirely too thick. In life, these species have a slenderer, more tapered appearance.

On page 329 , the back colour of the male Varied Thrush is overly blue rather than bluish-gray as it should be.

The bill colour of the Scarlet and Summer Tanagers on page 431 is reversed. In reality, the Scarlet Tanager has a dark olive bill while the Summer Tanager's bill is a paler olive colour. The relative bill lengths and shapes are correct, however.

These minor critisms aside, the National Geographic Guide is a definite must for the bookshelf or glove compartment of any serious birder on this continent. Considering its attention to detail, high quality level, and overall usefulness, I heartily advise anyone interested in our vast avifauna to get a copy. It's more than worth the price!

Kevin McLaughlin

THE LIVING BIRD QUARTERLY. Volume 2 Number 1

edited by Jill Crane. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Ithaca, New York, 14850. Annual subscription $ 25.00 US.

The Living Bird Quarterly replaced Cornell University's annual publication, The Living Bird, in early 1982 and now appears in January, April, July and October. Volume 2 Number 1 contains 30 pages, almost all of which are devoted to articles on hawks and owls: this is a special issue obviously, although no editorial points this out. There is no advertising other than the Laboratory's own and thus the magazine is quite slender. However, it is also quite attractive.

From the Great Grey Owls on the front cover to the amusing Burrowing Owl on the back, the photography is suberb and perhaps the finest feature of the magazine. Scattered on other pages are watercolours, oils and line drawings equally as attractive. Volume 1 was also full of excellent pictures.

Introducing this issue is a two-page essay by Walter Spofford briefly covering twentieth century problems faced by raptors. Then follow articles on the Peregrine Recovery Program, Bald Eagle reintroduction in New York State and the current efforts to save the California Condor from extinction. Scattered among these are two photo essays on a few eastern owls and the Philippine Eagle, including a stunning shot by Neil Rettig of a bomber-like adult. George M. Sutton contributed a one-page essay and watercolour portrait of a Great Horned Owl and is, sadly memorialized in the News and Notes section. He died in 1982.

The articles will be enjoyed by laymen for their substance and pictures. For the more informed reader, there is not as much although the presentations are right up to date. I suspect that the audience for the Living Bird Quarterly had been assessed very thoroughly before production began and that the magazine has been a coffee table hit.

Some earlier issues had very good presentations on reproductive success in songbirds, Atlantic Puffin reintroductions, Red Knot migration, pigeon homing ability and Wild Turkeys. Although no article is particularly long, each is generally well-written and of interest. They are also current.

My single reservation about the Living Bird Quarterly is its price; for four thin issues a year, $25.00 US. seems steep. However, other subscriptions are now as high and some of the money going to Cornell pays not just for the magazine but also for the Laboratory's research, refuge and reintroduction programs. The Living Bird Quarterly is an attractive addition to the natural history magazine field.

Bruce W. Duncan

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of colour-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags had combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird each had the same combination). In addition, all birds received a metal legband on one leg and a plastic legband (yellow with a black horizontal stripe) on the other leg.

In 1982 many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear. In 1982 bright blue wing tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging.

In 1983 many terns tagged in 1981 and 1982 were back at their colonies. In that year red wing tags (with yellow lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and green tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks.

In 1984 several terns tagged as adults in previous years were back at the nesting colonies. In addition, a few immatures tagged in 1981 returned to nest as adults. In 1984 white tags (with a red trim and red lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and yellow tags (with black lettering) on chicks.

When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, colour of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: BANDING OFFICE, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.

Although emphasis is placed on material of interest to banders, manuscripts of articles or short notes dealing with any aspect of ornithology are welcomed. Manuscripts should be typewritten and double-spaced. Write with precision, clarity and economy using the active voice. Tables and figures should be prepared on separate sheets; do not rule tables. Never repeat the same material in figures and tables; when either is equally clear, a figure or graph is preferable. Photographs should have good contrast for successful reproduction. Identify figures, tables, and photos on the back in pencil and by the same number in the space in the typescript where the item should be placed. Type the titles on separate papers. Refer to the list of literature cited by author's name and year adding page only if necessary from a large paper or book.

Contributiors receive 25 reprints of their articles free. Additional reprints are to be paid for by the author and these must be ordered at the time the manuscript is returned for proofreading. Information on the cost of reprints is available from the editor.

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa and for payment of postage in cash.