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# LITERATURE REVIEW

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**Effect of timing of banding on reproductive success of Tree Swallows.** E. H. Burt and R. M. Tuttle. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54(3), 1983, 319-323.

Banding procedures can significantly reduce reproductive success. Female Tree Swallows banded early in the nesting cycle abandoned their clutches significantly more often than females banded late in incubation, whereas reproductive success was unaffected by the time of day of banding.

**A new attachment method for patagial tags.** R. B. Stiehl. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54(3), 1983, 326-328.

A general note to describe design and attachment of patagial tags in the study of Common Raven *Corvus corax* and the effects of markings on birds and tag durability. The patagium was pierced with a small bore leather punch about 2 cm behind the webcord. The tag was wrapped around the leading edge of the wing. Reinforced eyelets in the tag were aligned with the hole in the patagium and the tag attached with 3 mm diameter x 19 mm aluminium "pop rivet" with a pair of 3 mm back up plates.

**Wing markers: Visibility, wear and effects on survival of Band-tailed Pigeons.** P. D. Curtis, C. E. Braum and R. A. Ryder. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54(4), 1983, 381-386.

Plastic wrap-around type tags were placed on both wings between the tertials and body, without piercing the patagium. This paper describes tag design and attachment. Most tags lasted only about one year. It appeared that patagial tagging may have reduced Band-tailed Pigeon survival. Feather wear and callousing were found on the wings of some pigeons where the strap made contact with the humerus. This apparently had no ill effects and tagging also had no effects on mobility of the species.

**Cloacal lavage of sperm: a technique for evaluation of reproductive activity.** W. B. Quay. *N. Am. Bird Bander* 9(2), 1984, 2-7.

Describes a method of cloacal flushing and examination of the contents to ascertain whether spermatozoa are present as an indicator of reproductive status.

**A technique for making custom-sized coloured plastic bird bands.** B. T. Thomas. *N. Am. Bird Bander* 8(4), 1983, 138-139.

Describes a method of cutting-down large colour bands to custom fit birds which are intermediate between commercially available band sizes. To achieve natural closing, so that the butt ends of the cut-down band meet, the band is placed around a nail of appropriate diameter, held closed with pliers and dipped in near-boiling water for up to 10 seconds.

**A radio-control method for trapping birds in nest boxes.** M. P. Lombardo and E. Kemly. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54(2), 1983, 194-195.

A short note to describe a radio-controlled apparatus devised to enable the nest-box capture of specific individuals for marking.

**A laboratory study of cranial pneumatization in Indigo Buntings.** P. B. Hamel, J. L. Beacham and A. E. Ross. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54(1), 1983, 58-66.

Repeated observations of the crania of individually-caged Indigo Buntings indicated both peripheral and median-line cranial pneumatization patterns. Female buntings completed pneumatization earlier on average than did males. Ageing criteria based on cranial pneumatization are discussed.

**A system of easily manipulated, elevated mist nets.** J. F. Denjonghe and J. F. Cornuet. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54(1), 1983, 84-88.

A short note describing all aspects of the construction and erection of mist nets used as high as 50 metres above the ground to capture migrating birds in the French Alps.

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## Review

**What Bird is That?** Neville W. Cayley, revised by T. R. Lindsey, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1984 xxviii; 802pp. \$59.95.

"A completely revised and updated edition of the classic Australian ornithological work — Neville W. Cayley's *What Bird is That?*" So reads the cover. Indeed it is an apt introduction to this much improved version of the book.

When *What Bird is That?* was first published in 1931 it represented the most significant work on Australian birds published to that time, as it was the first book to illustrate every known species. Five editions were published up to 1968, the last two being extensively revised. An abridged "field edition" which was first published in 1973 is still in print.

Until the late 1960's Cayley's book retained its distinction of being the only complete bird guide. Few people interested in Australian birds would not be familiar with the book and most will recognise and appreciate the considerable influence it has had on ornithology in this country. Mr A. R. McGill, O.A.M., M.L.O., F.R.Z.S., F.R.A.O.U., in his introductory appreciation of Cayley, acknowledges the widespread and beneficial impact that Cayley had on Australian ornithology. The price, size and weight of the current edition have, unfortunately, moved the book into the luxury or "coffee table" category of books. Nevertheless, the original function envisaged by Cayley of his book serving as a guide to our birds is preserved and to an extent an unfulfilled ambition of Cayley is realised. The high cost and the increase in size of the book has resulted from the inclusion of 430 hitherto unpublished paintings prepared by Cayley for his "Big Bird Book"