

1981

Commentary on the 1980 Annual Report

North American Bird Bander

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Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1981) "Commentary on the 1980 Annual Report," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 6 : Iss. 2 , Article 13.

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	Umatilla N.W.R.	c/o G. Constantino, Box 239, Umatilla, OR 97882	1	134
	U.S.F.W.S.—Alaska	c/o N.R. Peterson, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503	19	1723
	U.S.F.W.S.—Yukon Delta	c/o Christian P. Dau, Box 346, Bethel, AK 99559	4	1441
	Univ. of Alaska Museum	c/o D.D. Gibson, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701	6	23
	Univ. of Calif.—Santa Barbara	c/o Dr. Stephen I. Rothstein, Dept. Biol. Sci., Santa Barbara, CA 93106	13	752
	Ure, Stellanie S.	8251 Ashley Circle, Sandy, UT 84092	13	52
	Utah Div. Wildlife Res.	c/o Albert F. Regenthal, 1596 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84116	9	1450
V	Valley Center for Ecology	c/o Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, S. Fork Star Rt., Cody, WY 82414	22	177
	Vander Wall, S.B.	Biol. Dept., Utah State Univ., Logan, UT 84322	1	9
	van Riper, Dr. Charles III	Coop. Natl. Park Res. Stud. Unit, Wickson Hall, U.C., Davis, CA 95616	20	714
	Verhencamp, Dr. Sandra L.	Dept. Biol., C-016, Univ. of Calif., La Jolla, CA 92093	1	8
	Verner, Dr. Jared	Forest Sci. Lab., 2081 E. Sierra Ave., Fresno, CA 93710	16	146
W	Wahl, Terence	3041 Eldridge, Bellingham, WA 98225	8	1451
	Walters, Philip M.	5111 Soledad Primera, Tucson, AZ 85718	78	2231
	Ward, Michael E.	410 Pecan St., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420	5	14
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	Washington Dept. Game	Ephrata, WA 98823	9	1218
	Werner, H.W.	Sequoia & Kings Canyon Pks, Three Rivers, CA 93271	5	17
	West, Dr. George C.	Inst. Arctic Biol., Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701	3	23
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	Wilkinson, Gerald S.	Dept. Biol., C-016, Univ. of Calif. San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093	2	47
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	Williams, Dr. Ralph B.	Box 2354, Juneau, AK 99803	19	432
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	Winternitz, Dr. Barbara L.	28 Garden Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80904	14	19
	Wirtz II, Dr. William O.	Dept. Biol., Pomona College, Claremont, CA 91711	20	52
	Wisner, Herbert P.	Biol. Dept., Univ. of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403	4	29
	Wright, Dr. Philip L.	Dept. Zool., Univ. of Montana, Missoula, MT 59801	12	44
Y	Yde, C.A.	BLM, Box 670, Rawlins, WY 82301	1	21
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Commentary on the 1980 Annual Report

Daniel M. Taylor

The total number of birds banded in the WBBA area in 1980 was 157,787, representing 407 species on the continent and 6,033 individuals, representing 53 species in Hawaii. Compared with 1979, this is a decrease of 19% for the total number banded and an 11% decrease for the total number of species, but is almost exactly the 10-year average for these 2 categories. In addition there were 2 hybrids: Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted Flicker (3) and Audubon's X Myrtle Warbler (37). All but 1 of the hybrid warblers were banded by Idaho Coop. WRU. This might have been the result of the location of their banding operations, but probably indicates that a closer scrutiny of this super-species by all banders would yield a larger proportion of hybrids. New species banded for the first time in the WBBA area were Cave Swallow (21) and Louisiana Waterthrush (1) in western North America, while Hawaii added Bush Warbler (3) and Orange-cheeked Waxbill (2).

Most areas of the WBBA showed moderate declines in numbers of banded birds compared with 1979, with Alaska's 50% drop especially noteworthy. Exceptions to this were (1) Arizona-New Mexico, which had a 76% increase from the previous year and its highest total since 1965; and (2) Yukon, B.C., and Alberta, with a 1980 total 118% higher than the 10-year average.

There were 282 active banders in 1980, 22 of which were sub-permittees. There were also 76 inactive banders reporting, for a total of 356 permittees responding to forms. This was a drop of 22% from 1979's number of active banders but an 18% increase over the 10-year average. There were 119 banders who ringed less than 100 birds in 1980, 42% of all those active. At the other end of the spectrum, 17 individuals banded more than 1000 birds. The average number of species per bander was 11.7, which was the lowest since at least 1965. The

Table 1. Ten-year summary, 1971 through 1980

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	% 1979	% 10- yr avg	10-year average
Including all sources													
Number of reports	195	187	164	189	236	242	223	311	361	282	-22	+18	239
Reports of less than 100 birds	69	77	73	67	116	98	104	157	156	119	-24	+14	104
Species banded	381	366	377	393	412	410	444	416	448	407	-1	0	405
Birds banded	185,946	167,358	137,408	139,103	119,547	149,964	149,335	164,224	194,756	157,787	-19	+1	156,543
Average species/bander	14.5	14.9	15.2	18.3	13.6	14.3	12.1	12.3	11.9	11.7	-1.7	-16	13.9
Average birds/bander	830	890	723	658	514	961	564	624	581	560	-4	-19	690
Excluding Hawaii-Pacific area													
Birds banded	184,794	166,648	137,112	138,923	119,339	149,316	147,739	155,782	186,031	151,617	-1.5	-1.9	153,730
Birds banded by area													
Alaska	3,130	1,774	6,216	2,164	4,185	9,451	19,621	21,594	15,311	7,580	-50	-17	9,103
Yukon, B.C., Alberta	11,136	7,718	7,307	4,069	9,086	22,334	17,409	16,641	28,401	34,557	+22	+118	15,866
Washington, Oregon	17,101	18,472	14,963	12,598	10,597	19,156	13,013	15,366	17,796	17,366	-2	+11	15,643
Idaho, Montana	14,920	14,652	10,019	11,403	5,999	13,244	16,235	16,113	16,049	13,330	-17	0	13,196
California	71,241	62,108	46,428	41,110	43,243	39,363	35,162	40,741	57,708	38,216	-34	-20	47,532
Nevada, Utah	11,145	8,541	6,112	7,392	6,485	4,380	5,579	5,031	5,927	4,444	-25	-32	6,504
Wyoming, Colorado	40,246	40,399	35,973	36,643	32,232	33,630	29,815	32,781	34,906	25,278	-28	-21	31,915
Arizona, New Mexico ¹	16,393	10,672	10,051	11,421	7,614	8,406	8,569	6,951	9,604	16,910	+76	+59	10,659
Mexico ¹		2,312	43	239	106		737	561	329	106	-68	-88	492 ²
Hawaii, Pacific Islands	1,152	710	296	180	208	648	1,596	8,441	9,725	6,083	-37	+112	2,904

¹ Combined in 1971 ² Nine-year average

average number of birds banded by a bander was 560, which was the second lowest in the last decade.

For the fourth year in a row, Point Reyes Bird Observatory had the most species banded, with 155. This is the highest number since at least 1973, and possibly ever. Individual banders with exceptional totals were Kathryn B. Burk (87) and Edgar T. Jones (86). Cooperators with more than 5000 individual birds banded were: Colorado Div. Wildlife (16,290), Point Reyes Bird Observatory (10,718), and Klamath Basin NWR (6196). High individuals were K.D. Norman (with an outstanding 14,497 banded birds), Douglas Benning (5713), James Finlay (3526), and H.E. McClure (3047).

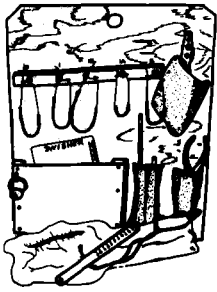
In 1980 there were 26 species for which more than 1000 birds were banded. They made up 69% of the total number of ringed birds. On the other hand, there were 61 species with 3 or less individuals banded. Waterfowl, as usual, led the way in numbers with 44% (70,118) of all birds banded. The most numerous duck banded was the Mallard (36,739), followed by Pintail (9312), Blue-winged Teal (8051), and Canada Goose (6841). As in the last 2 years, raptors made up 3% (4976) of the birds banded. American Kestrel was the most commonly captured bird of prey, with 829, but 14 raptor species had more than 100 individuals banded. Charadriiformes made up 10% (16,035) of the total birds banded, with 3305 Western Sandpipers and 3177 Western Gulls accounting for 41% of this total. Passerines were 32% (49,757) of all the birds captured, and 51% of these were Fringillidae. The most abundant of these were

White-crowned Sparrow (6717), House Finch (4347), and Dark-eyed Junco (3814). Other birds made up the remaining 11% (16,901); of these, the three species with the largest number banded were White-winged Dove (3771), Sage Grouse (1545), and Manx (Newell's) Shearwater (1229).

In western North America, for about 69% of the species, one bander or cooperator accounted for at least 1/2 the total individuals banded for that species, and in Hawaii this occurred with every species. This statistic, coupled with the low figures for average number of species and number of birds per bander reinforces the conclusion that there is a trend towards directed banding studies. There were declines in the numbers banded in each of the major group of birds compared with 1979, but significantly more in waterfowl and Charadriiformes. This was the result, in part at least, of the effects of the drought in 1980. Other reasons mentioned by banders for less banding included the rising cost of gasoline, and a few questioned the value of the kinds of banding they were doing after reading editorials on that problem. A potential area for declines in the near future are the federal and state agencies — the result of reduced budgets. For 1980, approximately 60,000 birds were banded by them, or 38% of all birds banded.

Hats off to Fern R. Tainter for successfully completing the difficult task of compiling this year's data. Dr. Charles H. Trost offered many valuable suggestions for this commentary. ☞

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