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Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

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President's message

During the two weeks before and between the holidays your President has been preparing for bird banding in January by donning middle-weight boots, hefting a substantial pack containing everything needed for survival during 3 weeks in the wilderness and doing a series of 3-mile forced marches on the steepest hills of Hopewell. Preparing for bird banding?! It's called the Tropical Ecology Field Course, an ultimate of expanded bird banding involvements, other examples of which were discussed in the last issue. Yours truly gets to go to the tropics as a volunteer assistant by being indispensable, this being the fifth time.

The intensive 3½-week graduate field course is aimed at the total picture in the localities that are chosen for study. The habitat is characterized (guidebooks do not exist yet for much of what is seen) and the ecology, behavior, and distribution of living creatures are observed. Of prime interest are the migratory passerines that are back home in the tropics for the winter and how they, as singles, fit in with the local residents, about 60% of whom are permanently pair-bonded and defend

permanent territories. Of prime concern are the habitat needs of these migrants and the effects of the vanishing wilderness on their numbers. Bird censuses are made both by mist netting and observations of the fast-moving foraging flocks. Habitat studies include thornscrub (hot), rainforest (steamy), tropical deciduous forest (dry), tropical evergreen forest (moist), cloud forest (dripping), and mixed pine-hardwood forest at various elevations (can be cold).

Access to these sites varies from excellent paved roads, rutted dirt roads, streams forded by indestructable Volkswagen vans, grass air strips and small planes, open oceans and small boats, and trails with pack mules and backpacks.

Fun? You bet! Difficult? Often! Risky? Calculated. Comfortable? Not always. Scary? Sometimes. Fascinating? Perpetually.

Here's to bird banding!

Hannah Suthers

Atlantic Flyway waterfowl banding

Fred Hartman

In NABB 7:4(152-153) we presented a summary of the Atlantic Flyway waterfowl banding efforts for the 1981 pre- and post-hunting seasons. Data are presented here of duck and Canada Goose bandings during the preseason 1982 in Eastern Canada and Atlantic Flyway states. No brant or greater Snow Geese were banded in the summer of 1982 in the Special Brant Banding Project.

Summary

More ducks and fewer Canada Geese were banded in eastern Canada in preseason 1982 than in 1981. For ducks, 73% (+7948) more were banded. A total of 18,843 ducks were banded. Provincial totals are shown in Table 1.

In 1982 fifteen Atlantic Flyway states conducted preseason banding operations. Totals of 15,220 ducks and 3457 Canada Geese were banded. These figures represent a 30% decrease in duck bandings (-6476) and a 30% decrease in goose bandings (-1482). State banding totals are shown in Table 2.

Since 1965, totals of 291,835 ducks and 48,304 Canada Geese have been banded in eastern Canada. During the same period, 273,716 ducks and 35,072 Canada Geese have been banded in the Atlantic Flyway states.

Objectives: (1) To determine distribution of harvest from breeding and wintering areas, and to define breeding area source of harvest based on band recovery information. (2) To

Table 1

Province	All Ducks	American Black Ducks
Prince Edward Island	6	6
New Brunswick	3499	1527
Ontario	3004	342
Quebec	10,828	2603
Nova Scotia	359	139
Newfoundland-Labrador	1147	429

Table 2

State	Ducks	Canada Geese
Maine	2370	378
Vermont	1579	115
Massachusetts	1058	
Connecticut	8	
New York	4365	929
Pennsylvania	1019	380
New Jersey	645	877
Delaware	405	
Maryland	1456	
West Virginia	59	37
Virginia	168	80
North Carolina	773	
South Carolina	472	661
Georgia	772	
Florida	150	