North American Bird Bander

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Eastern Regional News

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Eastern Bird Banding Association Founded 1923

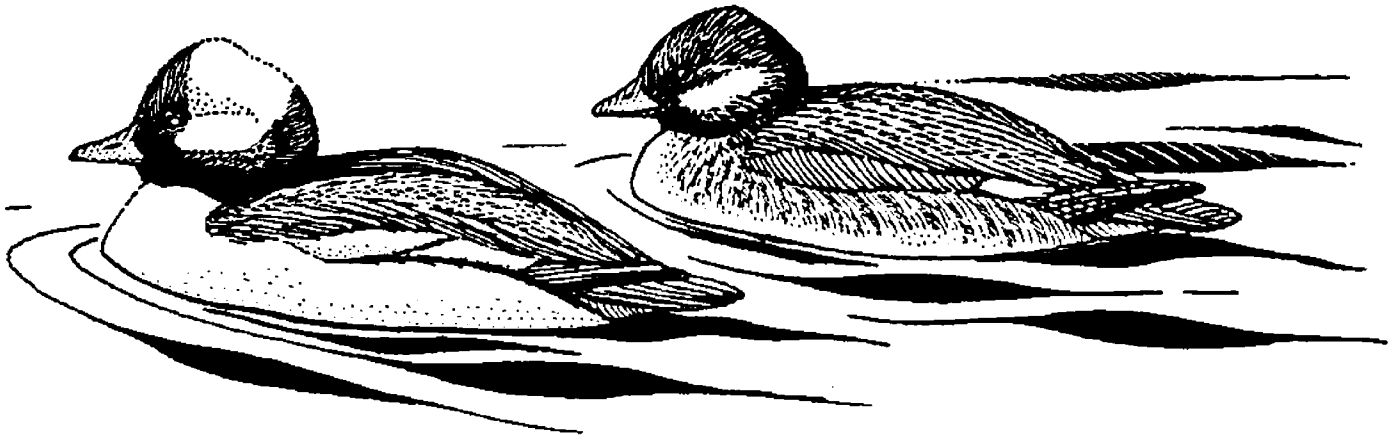
President's Message

The summer is coming to a close and the fall migration season is fast approaching. I have just returned from the annual trek to the seashore for a week of relaxation and rest. Although it is a welcome break from the normal routine and pressure, and I enjoy it, I always have mixed feelings. The area is never the same. The condos and shops are encroaching on the marshes. The birds are a little harder to find and there seems to be fewer of them. Of course, habitat destruction and pollution are a major problem all over the Eastern United States. In my area of Eastern Pennsylvania, there is a mass exodus from the heavily populated urban areas to the previously open agricultural areas. The fields and small woodlots are disappearing at an alarming rate. The increased population has caused many problems. The rehabilitators are reporting a dramatic increase in birds and animals being injured by vehicles and chemical poisoning, perhaps due to the increased use of pesticides. I have also noticed an increase of domestic cats roaming my yard. I know of two banders who have had to suspend banding in their backyard due to a cat problem.

We cannot stop the building and population growth. We can, however, change some attitudes. Maybe we can leave some woodlots and fields lie undisturbed. Maybe we can legislate a ban on destructive chemicals. Maybe, through proper landscaping, we can return some of the destroyed habitat. The change of attitude relies on one thing--education. That education is our responsibility. Most of us band in order to increase the scientific knowledge on birds and the environment as it affects them. Gathering that information and passing it on to the scientific community is important. But don't we have an even greater responsibility? Should we not be passing on our knowledge to the people around us? People are destroying the environment, and only people can stop the destruction. We, as banders, have to get through to the people around us. We must educate the general public to the problems.

The 1991 conference will definitely be held in Wilmington, Delaware on April 18, 19, and 20. Details are being finalized and more information will be passed along as it becomes available. Bob Pantle informs me that NABB is still in need of feature articles and, if anyone likes to draw, he can always use some line drawings or good quality black and white photographs for fill.

Yours in service,
Gerald K. Lahr



Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

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After a five-year analysis of weather, relative location, and net hours, we can only assume that weather, mainly cold fronts and nesting success are the determining factors on the numbers of birds banded. As for nesting success, it would seem that our continually growing people population is certainly cutting down on the necessary habitat in the Northeast.

During my ten years as editor of *NABB* (1975-1984), I was aware of a steady decrease in station reports throughout EBBA territory. As Region I coordinator since that time, I have found a startling drop in reporting stations from what was once the strongest reporting area in EBBA. This year we lost three more reports: one not reporting at all, one due to an abundance of neighborhood cats; and one due to not running the station. In recent correspondence from Appledore Island's reporter David Holmes, I understand this excellent reporting station is closing because of the permit not being renewed.

Table 1. Region I Summary

	BLOCK ISLAND RI	KING-STON RI	NAN-TUCKET MA	APPLEDORE ISLAND ME
Days of Operation	49	60	41	31
Number of Nets Used	3-11	3-4	2-18	10
Total Net Hours	4589	974	4042	3186
Largest Daily Catch	309	23	128	129
Birds Banded, 1988	1601	835	1666	2279
Birds Banded, 1989	1906	612	1645	2167
Different Species, 1988	78	63	87	76
Different Species, 1989	71	62	79	70
Birds/100 n.h., 1988	33	79	43	85.8
Birds/100 n.h., 1989	42	63	40	68

Table 2. Most Common Species Banded

Block Island, RI		Kingston, RI		Nantucket, MA		Appledore Island, ME	
Gray Catbird	413	White-thr. Sparrow	94	Yel-rumped Warb.	563	No. Waterthrush	359
Yel-rumped Warb.	329	Gray Catbird	86	Com. Yellowthrt.	88	Com. Yellowthrt.	262
Gol-cr. Kinglet	302	Com. Yellowthrt.	51	Gray Catbird	86	Am. Redstart	151
Red-eyed Vireo	75	Yel-rumped Warb.	42	Cape May Warb.	80	Song Sparrow	142
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	74	Blue-winged Warb.	32	Palm Warbler	68	Red-eyed Vireo	132
Brown Creeper	71	Am. Redstart	28	Red-br. Nuthatch	65	Red-br. Nuthatch	123
Com. Yellowthrt.	52	Dark-eyed Junco	25	Song Sparrow	61	Yellow Warbler	115
Am. Redstart	47	Black-cap. Chick.	25	Yellow Warbler	49	Gray Catbird	69
Bl-thr. Blue Warb.	45	Hermit Thrush	16	Am. Redstart	42	Cedar Waxwing	60
Dark-eyed Junco	40	No. Cardinal	13	Blackpoll Warbler	35	Bl. & Wh. Warbler	52
		E. Tuf. Titmouse	13				

Block Island, RI **411-0713**
Elise Lapham

During 149 days of the fall migration (1 Sept. - 1 Nov.), mist nets were open. For the second year in a row, banding at Block Island increased in numbers and in birds banded per 100 net hours. Although spring banding was slow, this fall an explosion of Golden-crowned Kinglets and an increase of Gray Catbirds and Yellow-rumped Warblers brought the highest number of birds banded since 1981. Part of this higher count was due to weather. The first part of September was warm and wet, with continuous east winds. On 24 September, a cold front came through, the winds turned northwest and continued for most of the rest of the month and well into October. Birds handled were 2,196, which included 78 Golden-crowned Kinglets and 212 Yellow-rumped Warblers that were released unbanded for lack of banders and time. Our biggest day was 8 October when 205 birds were banded.

In looking back over our records for the last 22 years, it is interesting to note the rise and fall of five species which seem to be losing their habitat either on their wintering grounds or their nesting sites. At this station, 1970 was the peak year for all five species: American Redstart, Northern Oriole, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, and Wood Thrush. The oriole has shown the greatest decline, from a high of 34 in 1970 to zero in nine of the years since, including 1989, although we did band 12 in 1988. The Wood Thrush was next with 16 in 1970, four years with none and only two this fall. The tanager's high was 33, ten years without any, and seven in 1989. The redstart seemed to be the least affected. It never reached the high of 104 (in 1970), but we did band 98 in 1976. There was a low of 11 in 1977 and this fall we banded 47.

We had no new species this year, but a recovery of a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak banded 23 May 1988 as a second-year bird was found dead in Guatamala in February 1989.

A returning Common Yellowthroat banded as an adult male 27 August 1980 was recaptured 25 September 1989. This was a longevity record for this station--at least ten years.

Kingston, RI **412-0713**
Douglas Kraus

The nets were opened daily for the first four hours of the morning between 7 August and 31 October. Intermittent netting was performed in November but was cut short by the early onset of winter weather.

The year was slightly below average in the number of birds banded, with no notable increases or decreases in any species. Weather was a big factor here. On five days each month, rain prevented the operation of the nets. There were many mornings when bird movement was minimal because of the heat, humidity, or adverse winds. There were seven days in September when only two birds were banded.

Migrants passed through in small numbers on weak cold fronts from 23 August on. The best wave of warblers occurred on 24 September, the day after Hurricane Hugo passed. Moderate flights of kinglets, thrushes, sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were banded during October with a peak of 23 on 17 October.

For August, the ratio of HY/AHY was 119/29 or 4 to 1, indicating a fairly successful nesting season locally. The Gray Catbird ratio was 18/9 or 2 to 1; for a species that double broods, this is very low. The wet spring and summer could be the cause.

There were no rarities this year.

There were 26 returns of which the most interesting was an Eastern Tufted Titmouse, #1231-59071, banded 27 September 1979 as a HY, returned for its tenth year on 7 November 1989.

Nantucket, MA **411-0700 & 0701**
Edith Andrews

In 1989, the Nantucket station was operated on a daily basis (weather permitting) from 27 August to 1 October for a total of 29 days at Mothball Pines (411-0700). From two to 18 nets were used. Existing lanes were extended to accommodate additional nets. Twelve days were spent at Ice Pond Lot (411-0701), where from two to five nets were operated mornings from 8 October to 7 November. As would be expected, an increase in the number of nets resulted in an increase in the number of net hours, even though there were fewer days of operation. However, the number of birds banded in 1989 almost equalled the total for 1988 as did the number of birds per 100 net hours.

The *Empidonax* flycatchers were down in numbers compared with last year, a peak year. Other notable decreases were:

	1989	1988
Veery	1	17
Black & White Warbler	14	34
Red-eyed Vireo	26	48
American Redstart	42	108
Blackburnian Warbler	2	15
Northern Waterthrush	19	29
Magnolia Warbler	7	29
Common Yellowthroat	87	191
Bay-breasted Warbler	31	57
Canada Warbler	4	11

Some increases were:	1989	1988
Red-breasted Nuthatch	65	8
Pine Warbler	22	9
Yellow Warbler	49	27
Palm Warbler	68	54
Yellow-rumped Warb.	563*	371
Rufous-sided Towhee	11	3

*Released 160 unbanded, but none released in 1988.

By and large September was hot, humid, foggy and windy with Hurricane Hugo midway and no strong cold fronts until the end of the month when we had the biggest days of the Mothball season with 128 on the 30th and 101 on the 28th. The biggest day at Ice Pond was on 23 October with 107 banded, 89 of which were Yellow-rumps.

New for the station was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Other highlights were an Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow Palm Warbler, and a Prothonotary Warbler.

There were 191 repeats, three returns, and no foreign recoveries.

Appledore Island, ME **425-0703**
Shoals Marine Lab
David Holmes

The Shoals Lab Banding Station operated very much as usual from 17 August until 16 September, for its ninth year under my permit. We ran as many of our standard nets as we could every day from dawn until shortly after dark, weather permitting. The weather permitted a lot this year. We lost an hour to a shower the first week, the odd net to wind now and then, and storm time from 3:00 on 14 September until Noon on the 15th. Our net hour total set a record; the number of birds did not. The wind patterns were not very favorable with much less westerly air flow than most years in spite of an average number of frontal passages. The forest nesting neo-tropical migrants were low in numbers. The generally common species were up, except for the Red-eyed Vireos and American Redstarts. Only Song Sparrows and Yellow Warblers had higher birds-per-100-net-hour figures than in any previous year. An invasion of Yellow Warblers apparently nested on Appledore this summer and our total of 115 compares with the previous high of 47 in 1985. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches both moved in some numbers after two years of virtual absence. There were no southern or western strays or rarities, but our Carolina Wrens produced at least two broods. For the first fall ever, no hummingbirds were netted. Our nicest stories were the returns--the most ever: 1 Gray Catbird from 1985 and 2 from 1986 and from 1988; 1 Carolina Wren, 3 Common Yellowthroats, 1 Song Sparrow and a first for the island, a Northern Waterthrush--a non-nester. We received notice of two recoveries: a band found on a detached leg in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and turned in to the Banding Lab in March 1989 which was placed on a Baltimore Oriole in September 1988; and a Flicker, banded on 13 September 1987, was found dead SW of Halifax in early May 1989. These bring our recovery list from 17,379 bandings to a total of five.

This is probably the last year the Shoals Lab Station will be able to report as the Banding Laboratory has decided not to renew our permit on the grounds that our project "seems unfocused." We are, however, trying to arrange permits for reduced operations through Cornell University, which runs the lab.

BRADDOCK BAY RAPTOR RESEARCH
BRADDOCK BAY HAWK WATCH
SPRING 1990

Season Summary

The official count was in operation for 93 days of the 110 days betwen the 18th of February and the 10th of June. A total of 639.25 hours, or an average of 6.9 hours per day, were logged during the project. A total of 60,307 raptors, representing 17 species, were recorded during the count period. The average number of raptors per day was 648.4, with an average hourly count of 94.3 raptors. A total of 88 raptors were recorded in February, 8,903 in March, 37,479 in April, 12, 289 in May, and 1,548 in June. Record high counts were recorded for four of the 17 species.

The record high counts were as follows:

Bald Eagle	92
Mississippi Kite	3
Merlin (tie)	29
Golden Eagle	43

There were also four species with new record daily highs:

Bald Eagle	11
Merlin	9
Golden Eagle	9
Peregrine Falcom	3

Again, it was another nice year and as always remember, SPRING RAPTORS HAVE IT!

BRADDOCK BAY
HAWKWATCH - SPRING 1990

Species	Total	Peak Flight	Peak Date	Range Of Occurrence
Black Vulture	0	0		
Turkey Vulture	4556	427	4/9	3/1 - 6/7
Osprey	545	101	4/29	4/3 - 6/7
Mississippi Kite	3	1	3 dates	5/15 - 5/24
Bald Eagle	92	11	3/17	3/13 - 6/9
Northern Harrier	1177	135	4/20	2/21 - 6/7
Sharp-shinned	7802	1386	5/8	3/7 - 6/7
Cooper's Hawk	955	131	4/9	2/27 - 6/2
No. Goshawk	10	1	10 dates	2/21 - 4/29
Red-sh ld. Hawk	2598	956	3/13	3/1 - 5/12
Broad-wing Hk	32666	9944	4/25	4/13 - 6/9
Swainson's Hk	1	1	5/9	5/9
Red-tailed Hk	8291	1538	3/13	2/19-6/8
Rough-lged Hk	459	64	3/13	2/21 - 5/25
Golden Eagle	43	9	4/24 & 4/30	4/3 - 5/8
American Kestrel	1001	149	4/29	2/21 - 5/17
Merlin	29	9	4/29	3/11 - 5/22
Peregrine Falcon	8	3	5/8	4/29 - 5/17

UNUSUAL OR RARE RAPTOR SIGHTINGS
BRADDOCK BAY
SPRING 1990

Red-tailed Hawk, Krider's type *(Buteo jamaicensis kriderii)*
- 13 March - 2 Adults
- 15 March - 1 Adult
- 22 March - 1 Adult
- 3 April - 1 Adult
- 25 April - 2 Immatures
- 30 April - 1 Immature
- 9 May - 2 Immatures

Red-tailed Hawk, Harlan's type *(Buteo jamaicensis harlani)*
- 15 March - 1 Adult

Red-tailed Hawk, Western type *(Buteo jamaicensis calurus)*
- 3 April - 1 Individual
- 6 April - 1 Individual
- 13 April - 1 Individual
- 15 April - 1 Individual
- 9 May - 1 Individual

Turkey Vulture *(Cathartes aura)*
6 April - Albinistic feathers on inner primaries and secondaries including the upper wing coverts.

Swainson's Hawk *(Buteo swainsoni)*
9 May - 1 Immature, light morph

Mississippi Kite *(Ictinia mississippiansis)*
- 15 May - 1 Sub-adult
- 22 May - 1 Sub-adult
- 24 May - 1 Sub-adult

All sightings by Frank Nicoletti.

BRADDOCK BAY HAWK BANDING PROJECT
SUMMARY SPRING 1990

A regular banding project was conducted at Braddock Bay, New York, by Braddock Bay Raptor Research with the principal investigators being Jeff Bouton, Dan Niven, and Dave Tetlow. This is the seventh consecutive year that hawks have been banded at Braddock Bay. This year, the project was conducted from 14 March to 13 June. The blinds were manned for 54 days out of the 92 days during the period. A total of 419 raptors, or an average of 7.8 raptors per day, were banded during the period, representing 11 species. The highest number banded in a single day was 182 on 29 April. Bald Eagle (1), Northern Harrier (12), and Merlin (12) were all new record high captures. This year, the north station was once again used for diurnal trapping. The north station was manned primarily the last two weeks of April. Again, this station dramatically increased the effectiveness of the project. It added 137 raptors to the total but most importantly on the peak day of 29 April, it was responsible for capturing 114 or 62.6% of the day's captures.

The passerine station also contributed significantly to the totals for the second consecutive spring. This station, christened the "rinky-dink operation" by its operators Elizabeth Brooks and Lauren Parmalee, managed to band 13 raptors.

Hogan Point was in operation this spring for the second consecutive year. This year, the blind came into its own with a total of 89 hawks. More significantly, it added nine of the 12 Northern Harriers banded this year. It was also responsible for 11 of the 18 Red-tailed Hawks captured. Of course, the big event of the season occurred on 10 May at 11:10 EST when Dan Niven captured, banded, and released the project's first Bald Eagle. The bird was a small hatching year male weighing just a little under six pounds.

BRADDOCK BAY
HAWK BANDING TOTALS
SPRING 1990

Species	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Total
Bld.Egle	0	0	0	1	0	1
No. Harr.	0	2	8	2	0	12
Shrp. Shn.	0	6	211	51	0	268
Coopers'	0	24	30	4	0	58
No.Gos.	0	1	1	0	0	2
Red Shld	0	2	0	0	0	2
Brd Wng	0	0	0	1	0	1
Red Tail	0	8	10	0	0	18
Am.Kest.	0	23	21	1	0	12
Merlin	0	0	12	0	0	12
Peregrine	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	66	293	60	0	419
Days	0	13	24	13	4	54

SEVEN YEAR SUMMARY BY SPECIES

Species	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	Total
Bald Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
No. Harrier	0	2	10	1	2	0	12	27
Sharp-shinned	176	192	431	358	652	78	268	2155
Cooper's	29	68	129	117	127	27	58	555
No. Goshawk	3	5	15	20	4	2	2	51
Red-shouldered	0	0	1	0	4	2	2	9
Broad-winged	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	5
Red-tailed	2	8	34	9	11	18	18	100
Am. Kestrel	4	40	65	36	40	28	45	258
Merlin	3	1	3	1	1	4	12	21
Peregrine	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Saw-whet	0	1	22	33	101	58	53	268
Long-eared	0	0	1	2	19	51	38	111
Short-eared	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
Snowy	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Great Horned	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	7
TOTALS	218	318	712	578	964	273	519	3582

PROJECT SUMMARY SPRING 1990

An owl banding project was conducted at Braddock Bay, New York, by Braddock Bay Raptor Research with the principal investigators being Jeff Bouton, Jack Holt, and Frank Nicoletti. This is the third consecutive year that owls have been banded at Braddock Bay. This year, the project was conducted from 3 January to 1 May. The nets were manned for 50 days out of the 60 days during the period. A total of 100 owls, or an average of two owls per day, were banded during the period, representing five species. The highest number banded in a single day was nine on 19 April.

Once again, three areas or habitats were utilized in the project: the fields near the main hawk blind, the pines, and the hedgerows off Kaiser's field. Again, the Kaiser's area yielded Short-eared Owls, while most of the other species were caught in the pines and field. A tape recording of a Saw-whet Owl call was very productive. It was set within a net triangle near the main blind and left calling throughout the night.

The big surprise of the season was the capture of five Eastern Screech Owls. Both red and grey morphs were captured and, given the time of year, it is assumed that at least some of these were migrants.

OWL BANDING TOTALS SPRING 1990

Owl Species	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Saw-whet	0	19	32	2	53
Long-eared	0	10	28	0	38
Short-eared	0	1	1	0	2
Screech	0	4	1	0	5
Great Horned	0	0	2	0	2
Boreal	0	0	0	0	0
Snowy	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	34	64	2	100
Days	0	25	24	1	50