

1993

## Eastern Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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# *Eastern Regional News*

***Eastern Bird Banding Association***

**Founded 1923**

## **President's Message**

It will be interesting to see if the severe weather we had this winter will affect the numbers and kinds of birds we observe and band this spring.

Susannah Graedel, chairperson of "Operation Wing Chord," reports hearing from 25 banders with wing chord data. Procedure/report forms were sent to 106 banders. Please let Susannah hear from the remaining 81 banders.

John Tautin, chief of the Banding Laboratory, reports that cooperative banding projects are gaining favor with the Office of Migratory Bird Management. This is our chance to demonstrate to BBL our wish to use banding as a tool to gain and contribute information. If we are unable to publish on an individual basis, we certainly must do it as a group.

MAPS is a continental-wide cooperative project that needs more stations in operation--see MTAB #74, January 1993. Also reported in this MTAB is acceptance of Bob Yunick's recent *NABB* article, Vol. XVII, No. 1, on ageing Blue Jays, for use in northeastern populations.

If you have not paid your 1993 EBBA dues, now is the time to do it! Donations to the Frazier Fund help defray the expenses of our editor.

We were delighted to meet and greet members at the Painted Post EBBA meeting, but sorely missed those who were absent. Seventieth annual meeting report to appear in XVIII (2).

**Barbara M. Ross**

## **Memoriam**

On January 25 of this year, Don Mease, our treasurer, received \$500.00 from Noel Rowe in memory of his wife, Deborah Findlay, who died of cancer on May 8, 1992. Deborah was only 35 years old but had been an EBBA member for several years, banded in East Hampton, Long Island, New York, and was involved in interesting projects.

Deborah was part of an ongoing deer tick study at Atlantic Double Dunes. Noel wrote us that Deborah collected four different species of ticks from 16 species of birds, a contribution of considerable note to that study.

On this, the first anniversary of his wife's death, we send our condolences to Noel and thank him very much for his great generosity. The money was put into the Memorial Fund, the interest from which is used to award yearly grants to at least two individuals involved in some aspect of ornithological research.

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## **EBBA'S OPERATION WING CHORD**

The Eastern Bird Banding Association invites all licensed banders and their subpermittees to participate in OPERATION WING CHORD, a cooperative banding project to test the hypothesis that the sex of birds of species considered sexually monomorphic is correlated with wing chord. This project is endorsed by the Bird Banding Laboratory. The species to be studied are: Blue Jay,

Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Waterthrush, Northern Mockingbird, Wood Thrush, and Veery.

Banders will collect data on birds of known sex from existing files as well as from current banding activity and report their information to EBBA coordinators. A large database is needed for the investigation of this hypothesis. Data now buried in banders' files can be of great value to this study.

For information, instructions, and reporting forms, send name, address, and banding permit number along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

**Susannah K. Graedel  
3 Talmage Road  
Mendham, New Jersey 07945.**



#### **Memorial Grant Awards for 1993**

Eleven applications were received and reviewed for the 1993 Memorial Grant Awards. The two applicants selected for these awards are:

**Mary Derr** for her study, "Mercury and PCB Levels in Piscivorous Waterbird Community of Voyageurs National Park."

Mary is a student in Wildlife Conservation at the University of Minnesota. She expects to receive her MS in 1994. She has a BS degree in Environmental Biology from Yale University.

**Mark LaBarr** for his study, "Site Fidelity and Post-breeding Dispersal of Common Terns on Lake Champlain."

Mark is a staff biologist with the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences and is responsible for passerine banding during the fall migration and also participates in annual surveys for Common Loons, Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, and Upland Sandpipers. A major responsibility is studying the population ecology of the Common Tern on Lake Champlain.

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# Atlantic Flyway Review:

## Regions II/III - Fall 1992

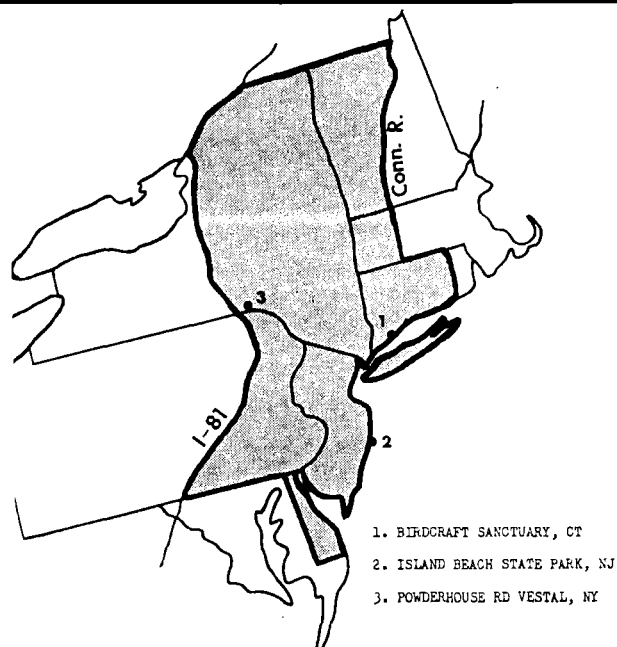
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**John A. Gregoire**, Coordinator  
Kestrel Haven Farm  
5373 Fitzgerald Road  
Burdett, NY 14818-9626

AFR Regions II and III were combined administratively due to the very few banding stations reporting. It has been some time, ten years in the case of Region II, since this very rich and diverse area has reported in *NABB*. With three stations rejoining this year, we are pleased to welcome the banders of this area back into the family of AFR cooperative research. We hope that more of you will become active in cooperative banding reporting and join us for fall '93.

AFR report information is available from the above. Our season starts with the arrival of the first migrants and ends with the last--usually late July through mid November encompasses our effort. Completed reports are due to the coordinator no later than the first of the new year for summation, editing, rewrite, and submission to *NABB* for publication early in the calendar year. Surely there is someone banding in Delaware? in southern New Jersey? on Long Island? east of I-81 in Pennsylvania and New York? in the Adirondacks? in the Hudson River Valley? in Massachusetts west of the Connecticut River? in Vermont? in upstate Connecticut? Please consider cooperating. Single station data are nice; however, the potential of regional cooperative research is important to both banding and avian futures.

The three reporting stations present an interesting comparison of urban, coastal barrier island, and inland rural habitats as well as a striking reminder of the potential richness of migration data available in this area. Our Connecticut station is literally in the cloverleaf of I-95 in Fairfield. Despite the surrounding urban sprawl, the Birdcraft station has an excellent species count, good diversity and numbers of migrants and a few exceptional birds such as a Golden-winged Warbler. Birdcraft's



location at the first impediment to southerly flow--Long Island Sound--contributes to its success. Its urban setting compounds the problem of cats in the net lanes experienced at so many stations. Domestic or feral, the felines pose a tremendous and increasing danger to birds and, concomitantly, to mist nets.

The Island Beach State Park coastal station is also one of the original "Operation Recovery" banding sites. After so many years of continuous operation, net lanes here have both name and personality. Thanks to Eileen Mahler, the efforts of several Island Beach banders are edited, compiled, and presented as the Island Beach State Park (IBSP) report. The diversity of species and routinely staggering numbers of birds banded is awesome. Golden-crowned Kinglets have an affinity for an IBSP stopover as do many neotropical species. IBSP's best day easily eclipses total season efforts elsewhere. On 18 October, with four banders present, the Island Beach crew banded 1324 of 35 species. Banders or Gaboons wanting to experience this phenomenon should contact Eileen. Coordinating the cooperative efforts of several banders, their assistants, their unique personalities and requirements is no easy chore. That

Eileen does this and makes our early deadline is a tribute to the cooperative cause espoused above.

In such an environment, the coordination of retraps and returns is an endurance contest. So many volunteer banders on such diverse schedules can easily cause confusion. BBL guidance was sought this year and Danny Bystrak offered the following to IBSP: (1) Reports of returns banded in the same 10 min. block should not be sent to BBL when the original bander is known. (2) Returns of a significant nature; e.g., exceeds current longevity record or of a true migrant (not a resident species), should be reported to BBL with an appropriate note. (3) All returns where the original bander has not been identified should be sent to BBL.

The tremendous sample size at IBSP has the potential to provide much information. We hope the IBSP banders will be able to add a percentage of hatching year for fall '93 as an indicator of breeding success in the populations covered. "Drop-in" visitors at IBSP were treated to demos and tours. We're not sure if that includes the semi-tame Red Fox that plagued Bob Pantle on the old Osprey Pole Lane.

Our third station would like to see some migrant wood warblers. Gail Kirch and Harriet Marsi are veteran AFR cooperators. Their station on Powderhouse Road, Vestal, lies just south of the Susquehanna River as it flows westerly near Binghamton, New York. The weather summary in their report prevailed all along the Southern Tier of New York State. Late frosts and early frosts bracketed a cool, wet summer, causing much agricultural and natural crop failure. Perhaps the Vestal station was the victim of overflight or, more likely, considering the good reports to the west, a change in migratory flight lanes due to weather/climate changes. Normally, this area would tend to see the flight coming down the Susquehanna Valley from the western Adirondacks and points north. The percent of hatching year birds in the top ten speaks to mixed success rates; REVI and VEER percentages are particularly low, as is the overall percent of hatching year at only 66%.

Powderhouse Road station completed their third season as a MAPS station this summer. Veterans of both AFR and MAPS, these banders are grand examples of the spirit of cooperative research among banders in this region.

<b>Table 1. Regions II/III - Fall 1992 Statistical Summary.</b>									
	<b>Birdcraft, Fairfield, CT</b>			<b>Island Beach State Park, NJ</b>			<b>Powderhouse Rd, Vestal, NY</b>		
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>% HY</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>% HY</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>% Hy</b>
1.	103	WTSP	86	2367	GCKI	*	72	GRCA	93
2.	92	GRCA	95	862	SCJU		55	WTSP	75
3.	81	SOSP	91	844	MYWA		37	SOSP	84
4.	38	AMRE	95	435	SOSP		23	COYE	91
5.	33	SWSP	67	421	WTSP		21	BCCH	95
6.	32	HETH	75	407	RCKI		20	CEDW	50
7.	28	SAVS	82	340	GRCA		20	OVEN	85
8.	19	RSTO	74	332	BRCR		19	AMRO	79
9.	18	NOCA	74	245	COYE		15	REVI	60
10.	17	WOTH	76	148	AMRE		13	VEER	62
* Data not reported.									

**Table 2. Regions II/III - Fall 1992 Statistical Summary.**

	<b>Birdcraft, Fairfield, CT</b>	<b>Island Beach State Park, NJ</b>	<b>Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY</b>
First/Last Day	8/26 - 11/14	8/20 - 11/8	8/2 - 11/13
Days Operated	41	54	44
Nets Used	6 - 14	3 - 29	4 - 10
Total Net Hours	2000	3990.4	794.5
Largest Day	69 (10/5)	1324 (10/18)	30 (10/22)
No. Banded 1991	627	8003	525
No. Banded 1992	732	7773	488
No. Species 1991	61	102	54
No. Species 1992	68	95	45
Birds/100 NH '91	35.5	74	48
Birds/100 NH '92	36.6	194.8	61
Overall % HY '91	*	*	74
Overall % HY '92	82	*	66
*Data not reported.			

**Birdcraft Sanctuary****410-0731**

Fairfield, Fairfield Cty, CT

*Carl J. Trichka*

Birdcraft Banding Station, located at Birdcraft Museum and Sanctuary, is owned by Connecticut Audubon Society and has been in existence since 1914, being the first songbird sanctuary in the United States. Bird banding operations were initiated in 1979 and have continued annually.

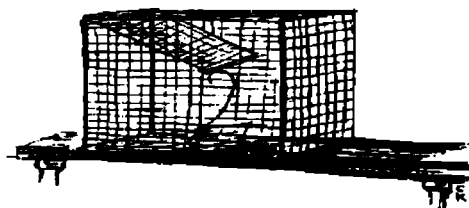
Birdcraft's program consists of environmental education for pre-school and K-12 graders along with various scouting and church groups from across the state. Our operations basically follow the scheduling of various groups by C.A.S., although if there is an off day and the weather is right, our banders enjoy a holiday!

The sanctuary is slightly over five acres; yet since 1979, we have banded a remarkable number of species totalling 118 plus one race and one hybrid.

Nearly 20,000 individuals have been banded. A Golden-winged Warbler was added to the station's list this year.

This year we participated in the MAPS project and are training additional banders to work on this project and lighten the work schedule at the banding station.

Chief assistants this fall were Alison Olivieri, Barbara Manicatide and Judy Richardson.



**Island Beach State Park**      **395-0940**  
 South Seaside Park, Ocean Cty, NJ  
*Eileen A. Mahler* (Compiler)

The banding season started on 20 August and extended until 8 November. Netting activities occurred on 54 days as compared with 58 days in fall 1991. In 1992, August through November days were 5, 16, 30, and 3, respectively; this compares with 7, 25, 23, and 3 in 1991.

During fall 1992, eight banders operated stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park (IBSP).

### 1992 BANDERS

Bander	Dates Operated	No. Birds Banded	No. Days	Station
R. McKinney	10/6 - 10/16	1430	12	A-7
M. Doscher	08/20 - 11/08	1349	28	A-10
L. Pharo	08/21 - 10/30	1294	17	Mabel's Old Lane
E & G Mahler	08/30 - 11/07	1230	13	A-2
J. Miller	09/17 - 10/22	1151	13	Old Osprey Pole Lane
R. Yunick	10/23 - 10/29	1070	7	A-7
R. Pantle	10/26 - 10/28	249	3	Old Osprey Pole Lane

The twelve highest number of individuals banded for the species and compared to fall 1991 is as follows:

Rank	1992			Rank	1991	
	Sp.	Tot. Indv.	% of Total		Tot. Indv.	% of Total
1.	GCKI	2367	30.4	1.	1465	18.3
2.	SCJU	862	11.1	11.	221	2.8
3.	MYWA	844	10.8	2.	1285	16.1
4.	SOSP	435	5.6	6.	386	4.8
5.	WTSP	421	5.4	8.	258	3.2
6.	RCKI	407	5.2	9.	234	2.9
7.	GRCA	340	4.4	3.	900	11.2
8.	BRCR	332	4.3	5.	400	5.0
9.	COYE	245	3.2	4.	475	5.9
10.	AMRE	148	1.9	7.	263	3.3
11.	SWSP	139	1.8	10.	223	2.8
12.	HETH	108	1.4	20.	61	0.8

The percent of total decline for GRCA, COYE and AMRE (and other species such as YBCU with 3 [.04%] in '92 and 47 [.6%] in '91) may correspond to the concentration of banding effort later in the season than in 1991. Milestones of cumulative totals of individuals banded show less than 30% banded through October 10th. In 1991, nearly 50% of the total had been banded by this time. Also in 1992, nearly 30% of the season total were banded between 21-31 October; in 1991, only 8.4% of the season total were banded during that period.

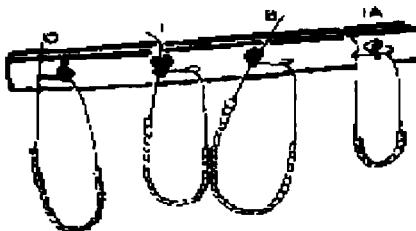


# **MILESTONES: Percent of total birds banded - 1992 vs. 1991**

Ending Date	1992			1991		
	Cumulative Individuals	Cumulative Species	% of Total Individuals	Cumulative Individuals	Cumulative Species	% of Total Individuals
08/31	257	33	3.3	358	35	4.5
09/10	332	40	4.3	1007	56	12.6
09/20	768	60	9.9	1421	64	17.8
09/30	1129	89	14.5	2418	80	30.2
10/10	2219	89	28.5	3884	94	48.5
10/20	5298	93	68.2	7290	101	91.1
10/31	7531	95	96.9	7960	102	99.5
11/30	7773	95	100.0	8003	102	100.0

Although most of the returns at IBSP had been banded there recently, three are of interest: a SOSP banded in spring '87, a RSTO in spring '85, and a GRCA in spring '82. All three were banded by B. Adams. The current longevity record per BBL for GRCA is 11 years 11 months.

Mabel Warburton and her hard-working family/assistants were noticeably absent during this fall season. We wish Mabel and her friends a healthy and happy year in 1993 and hope to see them back on station for the next fall migration. Island Beach just isn't the same without them! Banding demonstrations were given by Bob McKinney to a high school earth science class and by Eileen and Glenn Mahler to a birding group from the Summit Nature Club. Demonstrations and information were given by all banders to any and all drop-in visitors.



**Powderhouse Rd. 420-0755**  
 Vestal, Broome Cty, NY  
*Gail Kirch and Harriet Marsi*

During 1992, this station ran nets on 44 days from 1 August to 13 November. On 14 of those days (32%), the weather was either foggy, windy, rainy, or frosty, thus making the nets visible and cutting down on the number of net hours and birds caught. As in past years, the nets were located either in or at the edge of old fields now overgrown with shrubs 1.5-2.5 meters high. This station also participates in the MAPS project, our third year. Many of the birds caught during the AFR period were recaptures of birds processed during the nesting season. The cool summer meant that the Autumn Olive and Grey Dogwood berries ripened later than normal. We believe this affected the number of birds caught. While the number of birds banded (485) and the number of species processed (45) hit a low for this station, the birds per 100 net hours was a new high (61), perhaps the result of early furling of nets due to the adverse weather conditions. We had no really "big" day nor did we band anything unusual. As usual, the wood warblers passed us by. Nine of the top ten species caught were repeats of the 1991 fall season.