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Cape May Point Owl Banding Project - 1993

Owls have been captured and banded at Cape May Point, New Jersey, each fall since 1969. Katy Duffy has conducted the owl project since 1980; Patrick Matheny has conducted the owl project since 1985. During 1993, owl nets were operated from 24 October through 26 November, for 3300 total net hours. For the fifth consecutive year, a recording of a Northern Saw-whet Owl territorial song was broadcast near the nets whenever the nets were open. The only exception occurred on 25 October, when a recording of an Eastern Screech-Owl was broadcast for five hours, resulting in the capture of one red morph screech owl.

A total of 209 owls of four species were captured (see Table 1). On 7 November, 73 owls (68 Northern Saw-whet, 4 Long-eared, and 1 Barn) were captured, a record for the CMPRBP. From 7 November through 12 November, 160 owls (153 Northern Saw-whet, 4 Long-eared and 3 Barn) were captured.

Two HY Saw-whet Owls captured on the night of 7 November were later recaptured at Assateague Island by owl bander Dave Brinker, one on 12 November and one on 13 November. These are the first Saw-whets banded at Cape May Point that have been recovered south of Delaware Bay.

Two of the owls captured in 1993 were foreign recoveries: A Saw-whet banded as a HY on 21 November 1992 at Assateague Island by Dave Brinker and caught at CMP on 8 November, and a HY Barn Owl banded by Len Soucy and caught at CMP on 11 November. The Barn Owl hit a store window on Staten Island, New York, on 12 July. Len rehabilitated it, then banded and released it on 22 August in Somerset County, New Jersey.

Invaluable assistance was provided by Chris Schultz, Doug Brown, Paul Kerlinger, Shari Harden, Carol McIntyre, Scott Wilbor, Claudia Thompson Deahl, Dave Sibley, and Jeannette Moors. The owl project is funded by the Cape May Bird

Observatory and is conducted on land owned by the Nature Conservancy. The continued support of Paul Kerlinger (CMBO) and Liz Johnson (TNC) is deeply appreciated.

Katy Duffy and Patrick Matheny

Table 1.	Owl bandings for 1993.			
Species	HY	AHY	U	Total
No. Saw-whet Owl	168	19	0	187
Long-eared Owl	13	3	1	17
Barn Owl	3	1	0	4
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	184	23	2	209

