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## Braddock Bay Raptor Research Hawk Banding Summary Spring 1994

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**BRADDOCK BAY RAPTOR RESEARCH  
HAWK BANDING SUMMARY  
SPRING 1994**

A hawk banding project was conducted by Braddock Bay Raptor Research for the eleventh consecutive spring migration. The season was highlighted by season record high for three species and the number of foreign retraps and returns.

A total of 1347 hawks of nine species were captured, banded and released this spring at Braddock Bay. This number of captures represents the second highest total only behind last year's season high of 1485. There was coverage on 88 of the 101 days between the period 19 February to 31 May. Coverage was not extended on days with inclement weather. There was a combined total of 1406.75 hours logged in the five blinds.

There were record high totals of Northern Gosawk (32), Red-tailed Hawk (146), and Broad-winged Hawk (9). Four other species—Northern Harrier (57), Sharp-shinned Hawk (762), Cooper's Hawk (251), and Red-shouldered Hawk (14)—were all near record highs. However, a real high point this year was the record high of 27 previously banded hawks (not banded by BBRR banders or, if so, not in the past 90 days) that were captured this spring: Sharp-shinned Hawk - 18; Cooper's Hawk - 5; Red-tailed Hawk - 4.

Most of these recaptures were from the north shore of Lake Ontario and Erie and captured during the fall migration.

**Frank Nicoletti**  
BBRR

**Table 1. Hawk banding totals by month at Braddock Bay, New York, during spring 1994.**

Species	February	March	April	May	June	Total
BAEA	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOHA	0	13	39	5	0	57
SSHA	0	10	420	334	0	764
COHA	1	42	173	35	0	251
NOGO	1	9	15	7	0	32
RSHA	0	9	5	0	0	14
BWHA	0	0	8	1	0	9
RTHA	0	33	88	25	0	146
AMKE	0	9	50	8	0	67
MERL	0	0	6	1	0	7
PEFA	0	0	0	0	0	0
RLHA	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1347</b>
Days	3	30	28	26	0	876
Hours	21.5	262.25	701.5	421.5	0	1406.8

**Table 2. Eleven-year summary of annual hawk banding totals for the spring migration at Braddock Bay, NY.**

Species	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	Total	Avg.
BAEA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
NOHA	0	2	10	1	2	0	12	17	61	32	57	194	18
SSHA	176	192	431	358	652	78	268	319	470	1003	764	4711	428
COHA	29	68	129	117	127	27	58	133	135	266	251	1340	122
NOGO	3	5	15	20	4	2	2	20	19	14	32	136	12
RSHA	0	0	1	0	4	2	2	5	18	1	14	47	4
BWHA	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	3	3	9	22	2
RTHA	2	8	34	9	11	18	18	70	83	38	146	437	40
RLHA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	5	0
AMKE	4	40	65	36	40	28	45	117	57	118	67	617	56
MERL	3	1	3	1	1	4	12	6	6	10	7	54	5
PEFA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>1486</b>	<b>1347</b>	<b>7565</b>	<b>688</b>

**BRADDOCK BAY RAPTOR RESEARCH  
OWL BANDING SUMMARY  
SPRING 1994**

The 1994 spring season represents the seventh consecutive year that Braddock Bay Raptor Research has conducted its owl banding project on a regular basis. The project was conducted from 5 March to 30 April. The nets were manned for 38 out of a possible 56 days and captured a total of 119 owls during that period. Funding was provided by individual donations and a grant from The Association of Field Ornithologists.

**Table 1. Seasonal owl banding totals for the 1994 spring migration at Braddock Bay, NY.**

	March	April	Total
NSWO	43	21	64
LEOW	22	28	50
GHOW	1	0	1
SEOW	1	1	2
SCHO	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>119</b>

The study was conducted on state and private lands on the north side of Braddock Bay near Rochester, New York. The area is bordered to the east by Lake Ontario, by Manitou Beach Road to the south, by Lake Ontario State Parkway to the west, and to the north by Rose Marsh. The study area is approximately 700 acres in size. A total of 22 nets were used this season.

The 1994 season marks the first year of a three-year project proposal. The project focuses on habitat selection by migratory owls. Prey density, habitat selection by hunting and roosting owls, and vegetation sampling are being used to provide a means of identifying those areas utilized by migratory owls at Braddock Bay.

The use of passive mist netting gave an opportunity to look at areas frequented by owls. Artificial attractants, including a caller, were not used this season so as to obtain an unbiased look at habi-

tat preference through capture rates. It is believed that Northern Saw-whet Owls and Long-eared Owls utilize the field areas for hunting. It is also believed that the small clearing that contains the caller nets were prime hunting areas for Northern Saw-whet Owls. The field and caller nets both have areas with high grass and/or dense shrubby vegetation thus providing good habitat for prey items based on the small mammal trapping done in November 1993.

Data analysis for the 1994 season provides the following breakdown of habitat usage by Northern Saw-whet Owls by the following criteria: net captured in and time of capture. There were a total of 62 individuals captured for the season. Data were broken down further to eliminate those individuals leaving their roost and those going to roost; i.e., the first and last net checks. Twenty-four (83%) individuals fall into the category of going on or off roost. Thirty-eight (61%) fall into the category of 21:00 to 04:00 hours. Presuming that this time period is when owls would be hunting, their breakdown is as follows:

Table 2. Pine net breakdown for Northern Saw-whet Owls by hour.					
Hour	21:00	22:00	23:00- 24:00	01:00- 02:00	03:00 04:00
Numbers Captured	10	0	9	11	8

These data were also broken down to account for nets Northern Saw-whet Owls were captured in during their presumed hunting time. Pines nets captured 30/38 for 78%. The Caller nets captured 6/33 for 15% and Osier nets captured 2 for 2% capture rate.

The roost census has been combined with a pellet and mammal sampling. These three combined have shown that Northern Saw-whet Owls and Long-eared Owls utilize the pine net area for roosting. The mammal and pellet analyses show the main food base are deer mice, meadow voles, and Eastern Chipmunks. The passerine sampling combined with prey items found with owls in the net, show owls prey upon sparrows and warblers along with small mammals. Vegetation suggests that the pine and osier areas provide good cover for small mammals and passerines during the spring season.

This season has shown that Braddock Bay provides a contiguous parcel of land that is favorable for migratory owls. The area provides them with an ample prey base as well as a mixture of pine, hardwoods, and small clearings for roosting. Habitat management of the study area and succession will provide us with more information on habitat preference by migratory owls when combined with the next two years of data.

**Trish Stanko**  
BBRR

Table 3. Ten-year summary of owls banded at Braddock Bay, NY, during spring 1994 migration.												
Species	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	Total	Avg.
NSWO	1	22	33	101	58	53	277	292	154	64	1055	106
LEOW	0	1	2	19	51	38	61	50	72	50	344	34
SEOW	0	0	0	0	2	3	7	1	0	2	15	2
SCOW0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	5	2	15	2
GHOW	1	1	1	0	2	2	5	5	3	1	21	2
BOOW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
BDOW	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	2	24	36	120	113	101	352	352	234	119	1453	145