

2007

## Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Report

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### Recommended Citation

Hull, Buzz (2007) "Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Report," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 32 : Iss. 1 , Article 33.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol32/iss1/33>

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### Monthly changes in a Ruby-throated Hummingbird population in southern Illinois.

Cathie Hutcheson, 1 Rowan Road, Makanda, IL 52958

This paper reports on monthly changes in age/sex structure of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds for the years 2000 to 2005. There are eight banding sites included, with approximately 11,000 newly banded and recaptured birds. Age and sex categories are charted by month from May through September for the years included in this study, looking at both newly banded and recaptured birds banded in previous years. This

study gives insight into both site fidelity and population structure.

**Introduction to BANDIT.** Kathy Klimkiewicz, USGS Patuxent WRC BBL, 12100 Beech Forest Road STE 4037, Laurel MD 20708-4037

The Bird Banding Laboratory is introducing a new banding data management program: BANDIT. This presentation will include a description of the new software and a demonstration of the tutorial that is currently on the BBL website.



Founded in 1925

# Western Regional News

## WBBA's 2007 Annual Meeting

The next Western Bird Banding Association meeting will be hosted by PRBO Conservation Science on **11-14 Oct 2007** in Petaluma and Point Reyes National Seashore, CA.

More information will soon be available at: <http://www.westernbirdbanding.org>

## Outstanding Year for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

The GGRO had an outstanding banding year, setting a new record for both numbers and species at 2,182 raptors of 12 species banded during the fall movement at the Marin Headlands. Included in this number were new records for Cooper's Hawks (829), Sharp-shinned Hawks

(767), American Kestrels (90), Merlins (57), and Swainson's Hawks (3). We also banded a Rough-legged Hawk, only the fourth in our 24 seasons of operation.

Reasons for this outstanding banding year are not entirely clear since our hawk count from Hawk Hill, although above average, was not a record-setting year. The best explanation that we have for these results is that we had good weather during the peak flight dates, a good flight, well-tuned trapping stations, and an experienced and well-trained banding team. ("Good weather" really means lack of fog in the peculiar vernacular of the Marin Headlands raptor banders and hawk watchers.) All of these factors conspired to produce these results.

**Buzz Hull**

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