

2009

A Memorial- Barbara Ross

Mark S. Johnson

Sharon Schwemmer

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Johnson, Mark S. and Schwemmer, Sharon (2009) "A Memorial- Barbara Ross," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 34 : Iss. 2 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol34/iss2/9>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

First documented nest records of Ross's Goose in Ontario. G. Coady, D. A. Sutherland, C. D. Jones, M. K. Peck, and G. Binsfield. 2007. *Ontario Birds* 25:16-25. 604 – 60 Mountview Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 2L4 (A male caught during banding at the mouth of the Brant River in 1975 with three goslings and an apparent hybrid Ross's x

Lesser Snow Goose female provided the first nesting record in Ontario. Several Ross's Geese have been caught subsequently during Snow Goose banding operations in the Cape Henrietta Maria area.)

MKM = *Martin K. McNicholl*



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923



A Memorial - Barbara Ross

On December 22, 2008, our mentor and very good friend, Barbara Ross, passed away at Roland Park Place in Baltimore. Barbara was born July 20, Apr. - Jun. 2009

1928, to Dr. and Mrs. Oscar J. Mink of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. She had been a resident of Baltimore since 1964 and is survived by her husband, Dr. Alan Ross, three children, and several grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She and Alan have been members of the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Baltimore Bird Club since 1968.

Barbara was an expert at banding birds and dedicated to her field of study. She started banding activities with Gladys Cole, Marion Glass, and Dotty Mendinhall in the mid 1970s. From there, she ran a very successful banding station at Fort Howard Park with Jim Stasz, until vandalism led to moving the operation to St. Timothy's School (Irvine Natural Science Center) in 1979. She also banded at Cylburn Arboretum weekly during migration around this time. At St. Timothy's, she ran approximately 36 nets through a variety of habitats that were very productive—catching many Black-throated Blue Warblers, Gray-checked Thrushes, and even a few Connecticut Warblers each fall. She focused on recognizable patterns in molt limits, particularly with breeding local birds, since they presented some of the greatest challenges and were relatively common. In the 1990s, she had ceased most of the banding activities at St.

Timothy's, due to development encroachment, and began to band at the coastal mitigation site at Fort McHenry with Jim Peters and with help from many others.

She also traveled abroad to band birds when there were opportunities to do so. She traveled with Chan Robbins and Barbara Dowell to Puerto Rico and Belize to investigate the relative influence of habitat on site use by resident and migratory bird species. She was very active in the Eastern Bird Banding Association as a councilor and attended meetings throughout the years.

Over the years, we learned a great deal from her. She was extremely knowledgeable in ageing and sexing birds and was always very forthcoming with her knowledge. She also was an advocate of getting younger people interested, as she thought it the best way to help preserve valued natural places and

habitats. She was an environmentalist, but also a realist as she understood the pressures of our society on the environment.

Up until last year, she would sporadically visit our banding station at Eden Mill and seemed to enjoy the time and local environment of the park.

Barbara was a member of the Homeland Garden Club for 20+ years, winning ribbons for her floral displays of azaleas, daffodils, and hostas. She regularly attended the Baltimore Symphony, opera, and theater. She will be greatly missed.

Acknowledgment: Thanks to Chan Robbins, Barbara Dowell, Dixie Mullineaux, Joy Wheeler, and Catherine Bishop in providing some of the specific information for this memorial.

Mark S. Johnson and Sharon Schwemmer

Excerpts from the EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION's ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

28 Mar 2009

Meeting Convened:

On 28 Mar 2009, the Eastern Bird Banding Association held its annual meeting at Wrights' Restaurant, Chincoteague, Virginia.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Report:

President John Tautin thanked all the officers and councilors for their diligence. He also noted that present today are Danielle Kashube, representing the MAPS project, Danny Bystrak from the Banding Lab, and Bruce Peterjohn, the new Chief of the Banding Lab.

First Vice President:

David Hauber thanked all those who are attending with special thanks to all the participants and speakers for making this year's conference a success.

Second Vice President:

Ken Heselton announced that the next annual meeting will be held at Rocky Gap State Park, Cumberland, Maryland.

Third Vice President:

Bill Hobbs announced that the budget for the year 2009-2010 has been accepted by EBBA's Council, projecting an income of \$16,930 and an estimated expense of \$16,930.

Treasurer:

Donald Mease reported that operating income was over \$9,000 and expenses were \$12,000. We are still doing well with net assets of over \$121,000. Copies of the treasurer's report are available to any member who would like a copy.