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## Memorial - Robert "Bob" G McKinney

North American Bird Bander

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# *Eastern Regional News*

*Eastern Bird Banding Association*

*Founded 1923*



Photo by Laurie Dirkx

## Memorial

**Robert (Bob) G. McKinney**, born 27 July 1925, passed away peacefully at home on 26 October 2011. He received his banding permit on 6 February 1953 and the records at the BBL show that he had banded 122,016 birds as of 21 May of this year. Bob had banded at his MAPS station at his camp in Prattsburg, NY, at Island Beach State Park in NJ, at his camp in the Adirondack Mountains, at the annual May Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, at his backyard station at his home in Penfield, in the 'Pear Orchard' fields off Manitou Beach Road west of Rochester, and at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO).

He had contributed his records to the Atlantic Flyway Review for many years. His paper "A Bander's Guide to the Identification of *Empidonax* Flycatchers in Northeastern North America" was published in *NABB* Vol. 13, No. 3 in 1988.

Bob had been a member of the Eastern Bird Banding Association (EBBA) for over 60 years and secretary of that organization from 1988 to 2001. He enjoyed attending the spring meetings of the Ontario Bird Banding Association, and the annual fall banders' gathering hosted by Sandy and Dave Junkin at their home in Bliss, NY.

Bob, on crutches and slowed down by having to undergo dialysis treatment three times a week, still continued to band at BBBO during the fall with help from his favorite banding assistant, his wife Chita. His last banding session was on 24 Sep 2011 when he banded 52 birds and charmed 35 students visiting from SUNY Geneseo. He was particularly pleased to band a 'lifer' Worm-eating Warbler at BBBO this fall.

Bob was a founding member of BBBO and long-time treasurer of the organization. The newly renovated banding room at BBBO is being named the Robert G. McKinney Banding Laboratory in his honor.