

2017

## EBBA Memorial Grant Update- Brian Palestis

North American Bird Bander

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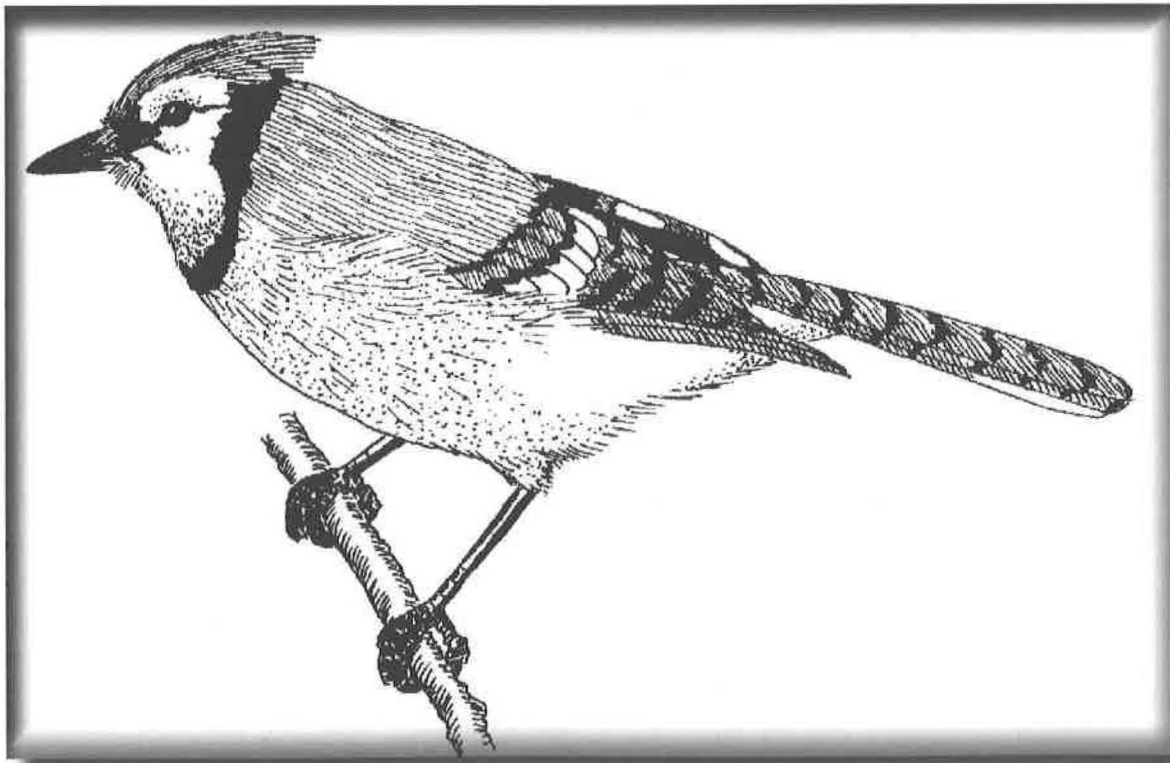
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We are extremely grateful for the many regular and local day volunteers who come down to extract and scribe for us during the season. Their help and camaraderie certainly makes the season go better. I would also like to thank my two long-term volunteers, Gillian Holmes from Courtice, Ontario, who was with me not only for the fall season but for the spring as well; and Jacques Turner Moss who came over from Britain to help for the owling season and helped enormously during that time in the fall when sleep deprivation hits us all. Without the great help from all these volunteers the observatory would find it hard to operate. We are also grateful to the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, who continue to allow us to operate within the National Wildlife Area.



### EBBA Memorial Grant Update

In 2017, EBBA awarded a memorial grant to Brian Palestis of Wagner College, to further his work on Common Terns in Barnegat Bay. 2017 was a poor year for tern productivity at Dr. Palestis' main site on Pettit Island, due to flooding in June and July. Nevertheless, 19 adults and 70 chicks were captured and banded, and 10 previously banded adults were recaptured on five islands in Barnegat Bay. After examining more than a decade's worth of data, he found very poor recruitment of chicks from the Pettit Island colony into the adult population, and determined it was unlikely to be due to natal dispersal within the bay. Dr. Palestis presented his results at meetings of the Waterbird Society and the Greater NY/NJ Harbor Colonial Waterbirds Working Group. He has submitted a manuscript to *Seabird*, and an abstract to the 2018 IOC; and supervised a senior thesis on movements of Common Tern chicks from the nest.



Bluejay  
by GeorgeWest