

2018

Annual Summary of Birds Banded in 2017 in the WBBA Region

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in Breckenridge, MI, in Sep 1991. A band from an owl banded as HY-U in Ranken, MO, in Jul 1981 was found “under about 6 inches of dirt” by a person metal detecting 4 miles away in Eureka, MO, 37 years later in Apr 2018. The longest time between banding and encounter dates for a band with the bird still attached was 12 years (this is the longevity record AHY-F described earlier).

Acknowledgements

I thank the approximately 1,200 permit holders who have banded Eastern Screech-owls over the decades, all the individuals who reported encounters, and staff at the Bird Banding Lab for supplying the data.

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Founded in 1925

Western Regional News

WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MTG - BRIGHTON, COLORADO 20 - 22 September, 2019

The Western Bird Banding Association (WBBA) and the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR) are pleased to invite you to Brighton, Colorado for WBBA's 2019 annual meeting. We expect many informative scientific presentations on banding, banding at the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies stations, field trips in the beautiful Rocky Mountains, possibly a trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and, as always, many fun social opportunities at which to network and to enjoy the company of your fellow banders.

We will update you with further schedule details and how to register as that information becomes available. It will also be posted on the WBBA website (westernbirdbanding.org). In the meantime, save the dates!

We hope to see you there!
The WBBA Board

Annual Summary of Birds Banded in 2017, in the WBBA Region

The 2017 Annual Bird Banding Summary for the Western Bird Banding Association has one major change and several minor changes. The major change is that birds banded in Mexico will no longer be included in this annual report. Manuel Grosselet at Tierra de Aves A.C. has graciously agreed to collate the birds banded in Mexico. Then, for the minor changes, you will note that I have eliminated the AOU#'s and alpha codes. Although the two have not changed, the phylogenetic landscape has changed with the re-arrangement of the family of birds. Although field guides like the National Geographic Society's Birds of North America reflect these changes, museums I am familiar with (e.g. Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History and the Western Foundation of Zoology) have retained the older taxonomy. And much to my chagrin, my younger banders are happy with the alphabetical arrangement of birds. Last, there is the constant changes in taxonomy, most recently the Scrub-Jays.

In 2017, western banders banded 254,851 birds representing 525 taxa. Discounting the birds banded in Mexico, this was an 8+% increase in the number of birds banded. There were 369 reporting banders in 2016, which jumped to 405 reporting banders.

The top banded bird was the Mallard with 24,914 banded birds, about a 33% up tick from 2016. Second place was held by Mourning Doves with 12,253. Both of these birds are game birds. Third place was held by Tri-colored Blackbirds with 9,526 banded birds. Mountain Bluebirds (9,085) and Tree Swallows (6,931) follow next. Both are banded from nest box trails in the northern latitudes. In spite of its name, the greater majority of the 6,586 Canada Geese were banded in the U.S. The Northern Saw-Whet Owl is a rather charismatic bird, and so 4,383 of these migratory owls were banded in the West. Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers and Song Sparrows are common and wide-spread birds; they rounded off the top 10.

Bird observatories often band a large variety and number of birds, as they are positioned along major flyways. In addition, they have a large number of banders, stations, and nets in operation.

Rocky Point Bird Observatory = 8,916 birds/76 species, Idaho Bird Observatory = 7,196 birds/85 birds, Point Blue Conservation Sciences = 6,374

birds/129 species, Calgary Area Bluebird Trails = 5,533 birds/2 species, Klamath Bird Observatory = 4982 birds/85 species, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory = 4,897 birds/128 species, and VARC = 4,725 birds/85 species. The top individual bander was Robert Meese, who banded 7398 Tricolored Blackbirds, which is a species in decline in California.

I used to present the list of bird species with the number of birds banded in each state or province, and with the permit which banded the greatest number of that species; however, I gave up on this.. The raw number began to occupy a large number of pages in NABB and too much of my time, so this information is now available on the WBBA website.

Finally, a fair number of Master Banding Permits do not have names associated with them, especially newer Master Banders. I have the name and affiliation of many from compiling these annual summaries over the years. If you wish me to add your names, drop me an email. Last, if you want to know who is banding particular species or species in your area, let me know, and I will try to put you in contact with the appropriate Master Bander(s)

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