

SIGNIFICANT BANDING TOTALS

By Franklin McCamey

I am much interested in the comments stirred up over the column on "Who is Banding the Most of What" in recent issues of EBBA NEWS. I would like to add my ideas.

I think the column can be quite useful in getting together banders who are doing large numbers of certain species. This should stimulate cooperation as well as competition and it might make all our efforts more useful. For this purpose it would suffice to publish only those cases in which significant numbers were banded, although I realize this may cause a problem in the determination of the level of significance. It would vary for different species, and might work out well if left to the individual bander to determine what he thinks are significant numbers for his station. For example, I would think that 3 Parula Warblers banded incidentally to a netting operation would not be significant, but that 10 nestling Red-shouldered Hawks or 500 Redpolls would be significant and of rather wide interest. An examination of the lists published in the past might well indicate the approximate levels of significance for the different species, and the lists submitted by each bander might be culled by an editor on this basis.

If possible, it would be helpful to give the total number of each species banded each year, but this would probably not be available for several months after it is of greatest interest.

To get a reaction, I am including a list of what I consider my significant totals for 1960:

1960 Banding Totals -- Significant Numbers

Red-shouldered Hawk	7 (nestlings)
Hairy Woodpecker	19
Downy Woodpecker	32
Purple Finch	320
Redpoll	595
Pine Siskin	92
White-breasted Nuthatch	55
Black-capped Chickadee	303

These are selected from a total of 2295 individuals of 66 species.

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NOTE -- This will be discussed at the Annual Meeting, April 22-23. Be sure that you come to East Stroudsburg and add your dollar worth to my two-cents worth! (Ed.)