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VALUABLE BANDING?

By Gary C. Kuyava

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We are bird banders with something significantly unique to offer. By banding a single small area intensively. . . we can determine the following information as well as much more:

Flock Data

- A. Date and time of arrival and departure of individual flocks.
- B. Approximate size of flocks.
- C. Daily and hourly weight fluctuations of flocks and individuals, important in survival ratios and flock departure dates.
- D. Daily population fluctuations.

Original Banding Data

- A. Time banded.
- B. Trap caught in; location and cover type.
- C. Weight in grams at the time of banding.
- D. Parasites collected, if any.
- E. Measurements in millimeters of wing, tail, tarsus and bill.
- F. Plumage coloration, moult, and unusual characteristics.

Recapture Data

- A. Date and time of recapture.
- B. Trap caught in, location and cover type.
- C. Weight, as many times as it is recaptured.
- D. Parasites collected.
- E. Measurements after a period of seven days since last measuring.

With this data we can not only learn more from the individual bird, but we can help to contribute and compile this extremely valuable information to life history studies.

How long is it since most of us have written and published anything concerning our individual banding techniques? Most of us do things in a different way and in so doing we develop certain techniques superior to those of our fellow banders. Why not share your information with other banders so that we can all share in your good fortune. Remember, we are not competing against one another, but working together for a common satisfaction: knowledge of the birds that so brighten our daily lives.

Thus the purpose of the bird bander is not simply to band birds, but to contribute information which may lead to the answers of the many problems which continue to frustrate the ornithologists.

1611 N. Seventh Ave., East, Duluth 5, Minnesota

