

HOME STATION -- OPERATION RECOVERY 1962 -- SOUTH AMBOY, N.J.

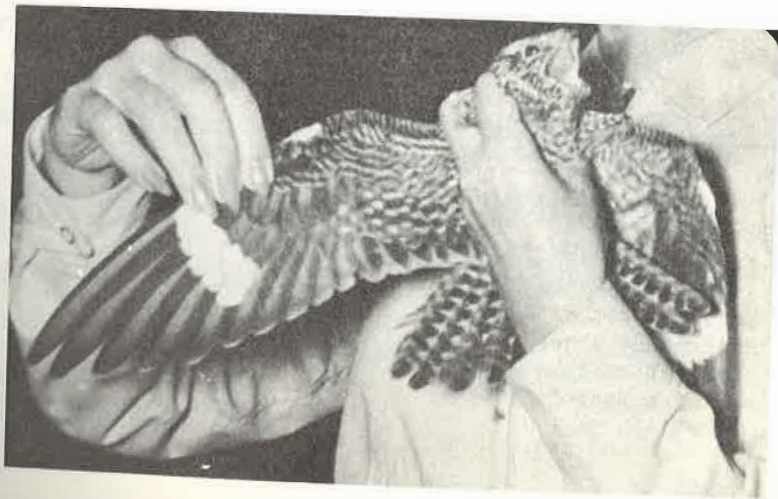
By Betty Knorr



Betty
Knorr
and
Night-
hawk

Even though I had never worked at an Operation Recovery station before, this year I decided to take the plunge and establish an O.R. station at my home. Other banders who, for one reason or another, are unable to participate at one of the larger O.R. stations might also find it worthwhile to start an O.R. station in their own areas.

Although the average bander is not likely to catch rarities such as those netted at Island Beach, there are still some advantages of banding at the home station. There is little or no traveling involved, no expensive motel bills to pay, and tasty, nourishing meals can be eaten at home without the extra expense of eating in a restaurant or the indigestion that goes with the coffee and doughnuts on-the-run routine.



One of the most important reasons for banding at the home station is the possible recapture of return birds that have been banded in previous years. While a bander might make a mad dash for a weekend of banding at a distant station perhaps some of his own return warblers or vireos may be passing through his home station.

This year I captured a number of return birds during the O.R. season and was especially pleased to get a return on a Semipalmated Sandpiper. This bird was banded on August 16, 1961 and recaptured on August 11, 1962. As this species is strictly a transient in this area the return of this sandpiper was particularly rewarding.

As I was seldom able to band more than 2 hours a day a combination of both nets and traps were used in an attempt to catch as many birds as possible during such a limited time. By taking advantage of the varied habitats in my area 80 species were banded. An additional 8 species hit the nets but were able to wiggle out while I was busy removing other birds. A large percentage of the shorebirds were netted in flocks which accounts for the 1007 birds netted in only 1125½ net hours.

All things considered, I feel that it was a worthwhile venture. Perhaps other banders who aren't able to participate at the larger O.R. stations can be encouraged to establish O.R. stations in their own areas. Even if the backyard station isn't very productive a little scouting around will often help to locate a suitable banding area nearby. Parks, farms, cemeteries, and many other places could be successfully utilized.

So next year when O.R. time rolls around LET'S HAVE SOME MORE O.R. STATIONS!

The list follows:

1 Sparrow Hawk	15 Swainson's Thrush
2 Ring-necked Pheasant	4 Gray-cheeked Thrush
20 Semipalmated Plover	1 Veery
27 Ruddy Turnstone	4 Golden-crowned Kinglet
1 Spotted Sandpiper	22 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
1 Greater Yellowlegs	1 Starling
1 Knot	1 Red-eyed Vireo
7 Least Sandpiper	5 Black & White Warbler
1 Dunlin	2 Tennessee Warbler
255 Semipalmated Sandpiper	3 Nashville Warbler
6 Western Sandpiper	1 Magnolia Warbler
62 Sanderling	1 Cape May Warbler
1 Herring Gull	3 Black-throated Blue Warbler
1 Ring-billed Gull	265 Myrtle Warbler
1 Laughing Gull	1 Bay-breasted Warbler
1 Black Tern	34 Blackpoll Warbler

8 Mourning Dove	1 Prairie Warbler
1 Common Nighthawk	9 Palm Warbler (7 Yellow 2 Western)
3 Yellow-shafted Flicker	7 Ovenbird
2 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2 Northern Waterthrush
1 Hairy Woodpecker	11 Yellowthroat
10 Downy Woodpecker	2 Yellow-breasted Chat
11 Eastern Phoebe	8 American Redstart
1 Empidonax	3 Redwinged Blackbird
1 Eastern Wood Pewee	1 Baltimore Oriole
1 Tree Swallow	18 Common Grackle
1 Barn Swallow	350 Brown-headed Cowbird
45 Blue Jay	1 Scarlet Tanager
2 Black-capped Chickadee	3 Cardinal
6 Carolina Chickadee	1 American Goldfinch
11 Tufted Titmouse	17 Rufous-sided Towhee
1 White-breasted Nuthatch	21 Savannah Sparrow
6 Brown Creeper	2 Sharp-tailed Sparrow
1 Long-billed Marsh Wren	74 Slate-colored Junco
2 Mockingbird	1 Tree Sparrow
14 Catbird	2 Chipping Sparrow
6 Brown Thrasher	1 Field Sparrow
8 Robin	16 White-throated Sparrow
3 Wood Thrush	3 Fox Sparrow
7 Hermit Thrush	9 Song Sparrow

Total taken in nets	1007	Total net hours	1125½
" " " traps	459	Total species	80
Total banded	1466		

Bander: Betty Knorr

Weekend Assistant: Neil M. Knorr

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CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS OF BIRDS
By Russell J. Rutter

I offer the following addendum to the excellent piece by Mary Schmid on "Photography for Record Only" in the Nov-Dec issue (EBBA News 25:6). For years I have been making perfectly satisfactory close-up pictures of birds in the hand with a standard Contaflex camera, with no attachment except a portra lens. With any camera having through-the-lens, ground glass focusing, it is quite easy to hold the bird in one hand and the camera in the other and obtain perfect focusing down to six inches. All my pictures are made in daylight, usually at from 9 to 12 inches, and the built-in light meter also makes it unnecessary "to know all about light meters."

Huntsville, Ontario, Canada.