

BAT BANDING

Wayne H. Davis, editor of Bat Banding News, writes: "You may be interested in the enclosed report. I have been trying to get some of the Operation Recovery stations to band some migrating bats. In addition to the Ontario work, Russell Peterson in New Jersey got some bands from me to tag some Silver-haired Bats being netted at O.R. station in N.J.

"I am organizing some large scale netting programs to catch great numbers of migrating cave bats in Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee next August to October and hope we get bird banders to establish Operation Recovery sites at the same localities. That way we could exchange help during rush hours and have company."

The report Wayne Davis enclosed with his letter follows:

BAT-BANDING REPORT 1962

By D. H. Baldwin

This report covers the use of 155 bands during 1962. Several banding localities are involved, all in Ontario. This project involves banding bats caught at several bird-banding stations and is secondary to the main purpose of such stations. The numbers banded are, as a result, small. However, a number of species are banded in this way and almost all are taken when migrating or at least moving through the stations, as are the birds. The solitary species are especially sought, often with little success; but all bats caught are banded. To cover the banding stations, one hundred bands are kept at each location and all are being used concurrently.

Species banded in 1962 were:

Hoary Bat (<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>)	1
Silver-haired Bat (<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>)	2
Little Brown Bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	148
Big Brown Bat (<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>)	3
Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>)	1
	<hr/> 155

Total banded 155 of 5 species.

Interest in bat banding, amongst local banders, is increasing somewhat; it is planned to continue this project indefinitely. In due course attempts may be made to attract bats by providing suitable day-time cover.

Records of all bandings and the administration of the project are kept in the Department of Mammology, Life Sciences Division, Royal Ontario Museum.

The essential cooperation of members of the Ontario Bird Banding Association in the conduct of this project is acknowledged.

The Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto 5, Canada



CAPTURING SLEEPING FLICKERS

By Leroy Wilcox

I suppose very few, if any, of those banding under Operation Recovery have had an opportunity of banding any sleeping birds in the vicinity of their station. Our station at Tiana Beach, Shinnecock Bay, Long Island, is on the outer beach near the Tiana Coast Guard Station. There are hardly any trees on this entire beach, the length of Shinnecock Bay, from Southampton to Quogue, a distance of about nine miles.

In the Fall of 1961 I noticed some Flickers sleeping on the L.I. Lighting poles and caught several. At the beginning of the 1962 season I decided to capture as many sleeping Flickers as possible and to count all seen each morning. During September and October 1962, Walter Terry and I who operate the Tiana station banded a total of 176 Flickers of which 44 were those that I caught sleeping on the poles, just before daylight. The sexes were evenly divided. The total counted sleeping on the poles were 79 in the 3.4 miles from the Quogue bridge east to the Tiana C. G. Station. The majority were sleeping from 4 to 6 feet above the ground, a few were only 2 feet above the ground and could easily have been caught by the foxes that live near our nets at Tiana. Some were 8 to 10 feet above ground and several of these were caught with a scoop net.

In addition to the 44 Flickers caught, a Hairy Woodpecker, a Brown Creeper, 2 Downy Woodpeckers and 5 Sapsuckers were also caught sleeping on the poles -- all were sleeping with their heads under their wings. They did not fly from the poles even though I passed within 20 feet of the poles by car. If I saw the form of a bird on a pole I stopped the car and walked back to the pole, careful to make as little noise as possible. It has been amazing to me to witness their keen hearing as some of them could hear me as I approached the pole even though I wore rubbers, especially if there were no wind blowing. If they were on the alert with head out from under their wing I learned by experience that I could not approach them from the front as they would fly. On the other hand I could catch them if I approached them from behind the pole and very few would fly even though I know they could hear me.

During September I caught 37% of those seen, while during October I caught 65% due to improvement in technique of catching them.

The table on the next page shows the daily bandings and numbers seen.



Who Banded What?

Edited by Lillian Cardinali



Some of the outstanding 1962 banding results by EBBA members appear below. Shame on those of you who haven't yet sent your figures to Lillian Cardinali! But it's not too late -- and we hope all laggards will get their figures to her without further delay -- Ed.

Leach's Petrel	Charles Huntington (Maine & Gull Is.)	2678
Double-crested Cormorant	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	334
Great Blue Heron	Dr. & Mrs. R. Gammell (N.D.)	7
Little Blue Heron	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	6
Black-crowned Night Heron	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	21
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	4
Pintail	Dr. & Mrs. Gammell (N.D.)	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Benedict (Pa.)	5
Broad-winged Hawk	Robert Leberman (Pa.)	2
Sparrow Hawk	J. Douglas Whitman (N.Y.)	27
Osprey	Leroy Wilcox & Walter Terry (N.Y.)	7
Bob-white Quail	" " " " "	28
Ring-necked Pheasant	Dr. & Mrs. Gammell (N.D.)	78
Sora Rail	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	7
Semipalmated Plover	Betty Knorr (N.J.)	25
Piping Plover	Wilcox & Terry (N.Y.)	61
Killdeer	Joseph A. Grom (Pa.)	8
Ruddy Turnstone	Betty Knorr (N.J.)	29
Woodcock	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	4
Common Snipe	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	8
Pectoral Sandpiper	" " " "	8
Spotted Sandpiper	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	10
Solitary Sandpiper	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	7
Least Sandpiper	" " " "	20
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Betty Knorr (N.J.)	485
Western Sandpiper	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	12
Sanderling	Betty Knorr (N.J.)	69
Great Black-backed Gull	Gilbert Raynor (N.Y.)	46
Herring Gull	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	1057
Ring-billed Gull	W. J. Van Velzen (Mich.)	120
Laughing Gull	William Savell (N.J.)	550
Gull-billed Tern	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	8
Common Tern	Wilcox & Terry (N.Y.)	7860
Arctic Tern	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	419
Roseate Tern	Wilcox & Terry (N.Y.)	102

Least Tern	Jerry Pace (Florida)	116
Sandwich (Cabot's) Tern	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	202
Royal Tern	" " " "	33
Black Skimmer	Wilcox & Terry	196
Black Guillemot	Charles Huntington (Maine)	19
Mourning Dove	Washington Crossing Banding Station (Pa.)	303
Ground Dove	W. J. Van Velzen (Texas)	6
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	5
Black-billed Cuckoo	Mrs. H. M. Church (Maryland & Virginia)	5
Screech Owl	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	14
Great Horned Owl	Stuart Henderson (Mass.)	4
Long-eared Owl	Nat Halverson (Tenn.)	4
Saw-whet Owl	Stuart Henderson (Mass.)	2
Chimney Swift	Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Benedict (Pa.)	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	James Richardson (N.J.)	5
Belted Kingfisher	Nat Halverson (Tenn.)	275
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	48
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Benedict (Pa.)	21
Red-headed Woodpecker	Wilcox & Terry (N.Y.)	177
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Mrs. H. M. Church (Va.)	12
Hairy Woodpecker	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	6
Downy Woodpecker	Walter Eigger (Pa.)	31
Great Crested Flycatcher	Mrs. James Downs (Vermont)	24
Phoebe	James Richardson (N.J.)	79
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Mabel Warburton (N.J. & Pa.)	9
Traill's Flycatcher	Walter Bigger (N.J. & Pa.)	388
Least Flycatcher	Tyler, Whitman & Livesey (Maine)	32
Wood Pewee	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	22
Olive-sided Flycatcher	" " " "	135
Tree Swallow	Mrs. H. M. Church (Va. & Md.)	40
Bank Swallow	Powdermill Nature Reserve (Pa.)	5
Rough-winged Swallow	Charles Huntington (Maine)	240
Barn Swallow	Malcolm Lerch (N.Y.)	551
Blue Jay	Dr. Henry Haberyan (Miss.)	16
Black-capped Chickadee	Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Benedict (Pa.)	434
Carolina Chickadee	Mrs. Carol Logan (Vermont & Mass.)	393
Tufted Titmouse	Joseph A. Grom (Pa.)	172
White-breasted Nuthatch	Lillian Cardinali (N.J.)	56
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Joseph A. Grom (Pa.)	64
Brown Creeper	" " " "	29
House Wren	Mrs. Robert Patterson (Maine)	44
Bewick's Wren	James Richardson (N.J.)	411
Winter Wren	Mrs. Carol Logan (Mass.)	92
Carolina Wren	Nat Halverson (Tenn.)	3
Long-billed Marsh Wren	Mary Jane Walcott (Mich.)	32
	Nat Halverson (Tenn.)	41
	James Richardson (N.J.)	7

Mrs. Joseph Cardinali, RFD 2, Box 460, Jamesburg, N.J.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF AGE AND SEX REPORTING
A Letter to the Banding Office
By Robert L. Pyle

Mr. Allen J. Duvall
Bird Banding Laboratory
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Laurel, Maryland

Dear Mr. Duvall:

While working on schedules for the past year's bandings, I have once again been wrestling with the perennial problem of how to report the age and sex of many of my newly banded birds. Sometimes it is not clear what designations should be entered on the schedule to convey what I, as an untrained amateur, have determined about the individual bird, yet not mislead the future user of my records as to the extent of the scientific basis for my determinations. The present reportable categories of Age and Sex as defined in the current Bird Banding Manual are not fully explicit.

For Age, the main problem is in deciding between ADULT and UNKNOWN. The Manual states that for "some species" both subadults and true adults "should be called adults after their first January 1". It is therefore common practice for amateurs to designate virtually all birds banded from January through early spring as adults. This designation says only that the bird is at least a few months old, which adds nothing to the information given by the date of banding. But a trained zoologist in the same situation may determine from skull conditions, feather wear, or other subtle criteria that his bird was not hatched in the most recent nesting season, and therefore is at least one and a fraction years old and perhaps older. He must use the same "A" designation and, unless special remarks are given, his added information is lost to the future user of the data.

The Manual goes on to point out that subadult towhees can be distinguished from adults on the basis of feather wear and eye color, implying that towhees banded after January 1 should be designated Age Unknown unless this distinction is made. Other species must also have such criteria for separating adults from subadults in late winter. For these species, banders who indiscriminately report "A" after January 1 are actually spoiling the data files for users who would like to distinguish between subadults and true adults whenever the original bander has been able to do so.

The Age classifications ought to be so defined that the amateur and professional banders each can report as much information as he has determined. They should clearly indicate to the data user whether age was

directly and positively determined from the bird, or whether it was derived indirectly from date of banding alone.

In designating Sex, a problem arises in autumn when individuals of some species are definitely not adult male, but could be adult female or immature. The possibility of their being either adult female or immature male now requires that we designate both age and sex as unknown. In order not to lose information actually known about such a bird, we need another sex category for "female or immature, but not adult male".

With these considerations in mind, I would like to propose the following modifications to the present definitions of age and sex used for newly banded birds and for return reports:

AGE

- A = Adult: Birds determined not to have hatched in same calendar year as banded. Hatched in preceding year, or earlier.
- U = Unknown: could be A or I, but not L or N.
- .. = Unknown: could be A, I, L or N (for cases where age data is lost or not recorded)

It is expected that for many banders these categories plus the present N(nestling), L(local) and I(immature) would suffice for most species. But when date of banding can be supplemented with morphological criteria to determine age more accurately than indicated by "A", the following additional categories would be available:

- S = Subadult: birds determined to have hatched in the year preceding the calendar year of banding. Also, may be used for birds possibly hatched two, three or more years back, but which have not yet reached full adult plumage. Additional notation could be given if it can be determined fairly definitely that the bird is in its 2nd year, 3rd year, etc.
- E = Elder: birds in full adult plumage determined to have hatched in second year prior to calendar year of banding, or earlier.

When S or E is reported, the criteria used should be indicated in Remarks.

For birds hatching in late fall or winter before January 1, the following definitions would be more appropriate:

- I = Immature: determined to be less than one year old.