BRADLEY'S MARSH BANDING STATION REPORT - 7-YEAR SUMMARY

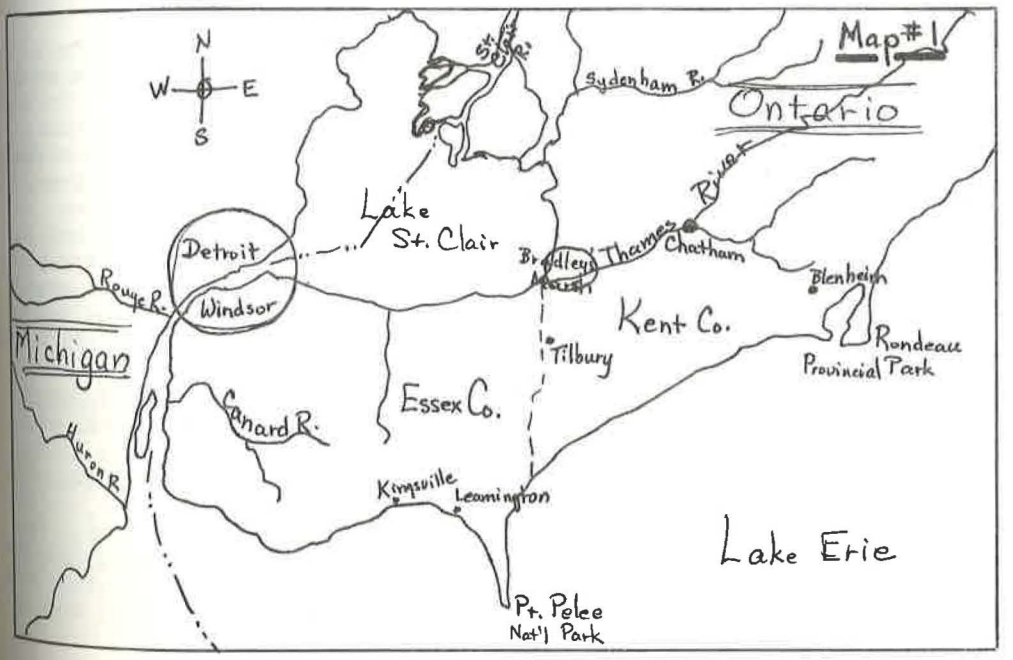
By Ruth C. Erickson and Mary June Wolcott

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Bradley's property is an area of 2,000 acres at the mouth of the Thames River on the southeast corner of Lake St. Clair. (See Map # 1) It has been owned by Mr. Bruce Bradley since 1912 and is now managed as a corporation by Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, their three sons, and other members of the family. It was all farmland until a terrific storm in 1929 flooded the lake shore pastures. Six hundred acres are still used for crops; part of the artificial marsh is maintained as a wild fowl refuge, and part is reserved for hunting and fishing areas for those with permits. The term "Bradley's Marsh" refers to the property adjacent to the lake shore - about three miles long, and 1400 acres of dikes, waterways, and rushes.

Bradley's Marsh acquired status as a birding-place when Mr. Albert A. Wood (Dec. 1963) and Dr. George M. Stirrett spent many hours there observing, collecting, and cataloguing the birds in the area.

In 1939 bird-watchers were attracted to Bradley's Marsh to observe a colony of Black Crowned Night Herons (usually tree-nesters) nesting in the cat-tails. (Reported in The Canadian Field Naturalist - Vol. LV - No. 2 - Feb., 1941).



In 1940, Oliver H. Hewitt, a student from Cornell Univ., spent the summer at Bradley's Marsh preparing his M.S. Thesis, entitled, "A study of the ecology of an artificial fresh water marsh with special reference to ducks and muskrats." Hewitt based his list of birds in the area on the lists prepared by A. A. Wood, G. M. Stirrett, and D. A. Arnott in 1939, adding any others he had observed.

By 1942, using material from this thesis in check-list form, nature groups began coming to the Marsh to observe. Groups such as the Kent Nature Group (Ont.), Washtenaw County Audubon Club (Mich.), Detroit Audubon Club, etc., continue to make periodic trips to Bradley's Marsh, especially during the migration months.

A few early attempts were made to band the birds at Bradley's. One of the first to try mist nets in the area was Neil Kelley (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.). It seemed such a rich migration field he recommended it to Robert and Mary Wright (Detroit, Mich.) who were newly licensed banders looking for a place to start their netting project.

Bob and Mary Wright made the necessary arrangements with Mr. Bruce Bradley, and did some banding in 1958, but started the records of Bradley's Marsh as a banding station in the spring of 1959.

PERSONNEL AND COVERAGE

Robert Wright soon interested Gene and Doris Trobaugh of Detroit in bird banding and especially in the variety of species possible for study at Bradley's Marsh during migration. In 1961 the Wrights and the Trobaughs began to teach Ruth Erickson and Mary June Wolcott of Royal Oak, Mich., how to handle nets and birds. They began working at Bradley's Marsh that spring, 1961, and in the fall opened up their own section of the area.

Each Saturday and Sunday during the migration months of May and September and October there were usually six working at the station through 1961 and 1962. Bob Wright banded through the spring of 1963, but when he left Burroughs Corp. and found a job in New Orleans that fall, he turned the Bradley's Marsh banding station over to Ruth Erickson and M. J. Wolcott.

Others who have assisted in the banding activities were Mr. George Garbutt of Jeannette's Creek, Ontario, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Randall of Chatham, Ont., Mr. Bruce Baxter and Mr. Robert Baxter of Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Marian Norris of Pontiac, Mich., and Mr. Ed Rheaume of Tilbury, Ont.

There are no buildings or facilities at this banding station. The banders carry all equipment in their cars, driving seventy miles from their homes in the Detroit area, to arrive at sunrise. This means leaving home at 4:00 A.M. in the spring, but, thankfully, a little later each week in the fall.

There is no one able to band at the Marsh during the week. Coverage is possible only on Saturdays and Sundays. No banding is done during the summer or winter months. This has amounted to an average of 37 banding days each year.

Bob and Mary Wright contributed to Operation Recovery by submitting all fall banding records each year. They faithfully measured most wing chords and weighed birds when they could. On windy days Bob was unable to weigh birds because there was no shelter for the scales. Ruth Erickson has made a wind shield from a large carton, and a greater proportion of fall migrants are being weighed. The station continues to participate in the Operation Recovery.

A fourteen-powered hand lens with a battery-powered light above it has been mounted on the top of the carton containing the triple-beam balance. With this equipment Ruth Erickson has learned to age some species by skull-ossification as described by Chandler Robbins.

DESCRIPTION OF BANDING AREA

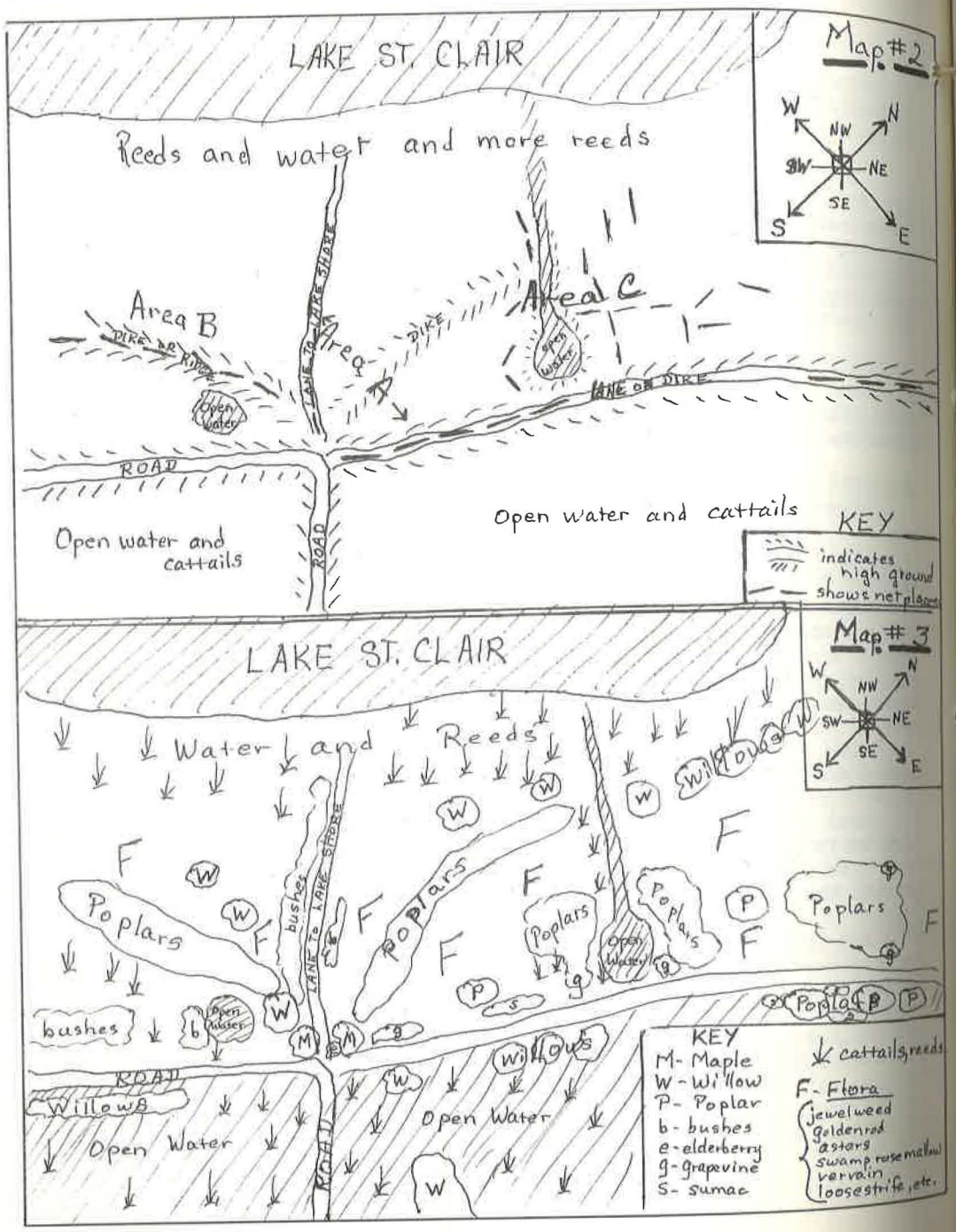
Terrain and Vegetation

The areas selected for the first net paths (Area A and Area B) are similar in terrain. The road northwest from the farmhouses is on a dike for about one-half mile beside marsh (open water and reeds) before it turns southwest. At this bend in the road, dikes run in several directions. Robert Wright chose the lane going northwest toward Lake St. Clair, and a dike going northeast along a marshy area for his net paths. This is referred to as Area A. (See Map # 2)

When Gene Trobaugh brought his nets, he selected a dike (or ridge) - Area B - running diagonally west from the bend in the road.

Area C was opened when Ruth Erickson and Mary June Wolcott joined the team in fall, 1961. This terrain was quite different, as the net paths were laid northwest of the dike, on lower ground (sometimes under water) between the dike and the reedy shore of Lake St. Clair.

The trees that grow in this part of the Marsh are predominantly poplars and willows, in all sizes. There are many bushes and shrubs, or scrub, of various kinds, but mainly staghorn sumac, elderberry, and grapevine. There is a tremendous growth between the end of May banding and the late August banding. In the fall, masses of goldenrod, cone flowers, thistles, asters, jewelweed, joepyeweed, nettles, swamp rose mallows, milkweed, loosestrife, etc., are tall and thick throughout Area C, and between Areas A and C. Of course, there are thousands of cattail reeds and blossoms throughout the marsh.



(See Map # 3) In 1959, Area A was mostly small bushes and scrub along the northwest lane, and willow trees opposite bushes along the northeast dike, with open water and reeds beside the willows. These bushes have grown, as have the smaller trees, and the birds find food higher and higher above net level, so the number of birds taken in Area A has diminished each year.

Area B is a ridge with bushes and willows at the road end, and a row of old poplars the rest of the way. There is open water full of rushes between the dike and the road, also from the dike out to the lake itself. This area has changed very little in appearance during the seven years of operation.

Area C has poplars near the dike, and willows along the edge of the swampy shore of Lake St. Clair. Many of the trees and bushes have grown, but this has not noticeably affected the bird catch.

There is more of the same kind of terrain and vegetation extending in both directions offering more netting territory when opened up.

SEVEN YEARS OF BANDING

The only method used to catch the birds at the banding station at Bradley's Marsh has been with mist-nets. Nets were stretched, depending on the wind direction, along the net paths shown on Map # 3.

Table # 1 gives the detailed banding totals for each of the seven years with a breakdown into spring and fall banding. No attempt was made to separate the totals in one area from any other. Such a comparison was impractical for these reasons: there were different numbers of people working in each area, the hours of coverage varied, different numbers of nets were used at different times, and tethered nets versus untethered nets were in operation.

The grand total of birds banded in the seven years is 21,011 of 116 species. The species with the highest total is the Golden Crowned Kinglet, 2938.

There are consistently more birds banded during fall migration than in the spring, but fall migration lasts twice as long as in the spring. The totals for the years 1959, 1960, and 1964 are lower because only two people were really operating the station (with helpers) at those times. The years 1961, 1962, and 1963 have an increase directly related to the increase in personnel.

No real effort has yet been made to band the water, shore, and wading birds found in large numbers in the area. (More will be said about this later in the report.) However, one of these birds will now and then move from one part to another in the marsh and be caught by a net. Occasionally the bander's timing is right and the bird is retrieved and banded. Thus,

it is happenstance that the Rail, the Bittern, and the Sandpiper were captured. A summer's day at the Marsh added ten Black Terns for Bob and Mary Wright. The Sharp-Shinned Hawk was netted along with the small bird he was chasing.

The year, 1961, that the Tufted Titmouse was caught at Bradley's was the year Titmice were seen in several areas of southern Ontario. This species had rarely visited this part of Ontario before. Other exciting catches were the White-eyed Vireo, the Worm-eating Warbler, the Cerulean Warbler, the Hooded Warbler, the Short-billed Marsh Wren, and this spring, 1965, the Kentucky Warbler.

Four families, Sylviidae, Parulidae, Fringillidae, and Turdidae, have consistently been at the top of the list for all seven years, as shown in Table # 2. The Sylviidae and the Parulidae each held first place three of the seven years. The Parulidae have a grand total of 7076. Table # 4 breaks these four families down to discover which species account for about 50% or more of the total number banded.

As already stated, Area C was opened up in 1961, fall, and the type of vegetation in that area seemed to attract the flycatchers, creepers, nuthatches, warblers, etc. Numbers of these species show a marked increase at this time.

In the fall of 1963 when Area A was abandoned, there was a similar change in the numbers banded of certain species. Swallows, yellow warblers, white crowned sparrows, and long-billed marsh wrens showed the greatest decrease. Area B at this time was covered only about 50% of the time, depending on personnel available.

Species banded in 1960, but not banded previously, were: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Baltimore Oriole, White-eyed Vireo, Brewster's Warbler, Parula Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Wood Thrush, and Robin.

Species banded in 1961, but not banded previously, were: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Orchard Oriole, Purple Finch, Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Hooded Warbler, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Tufted Titmouse.

New species in 1962 were: Sora Rail, American Woodcock, Cedar Waxwing, Worm-eating Warbler, and Short-billed Marsh Wren.

In 1963, these species were added: Whip-poor-will, Great Crested Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and House Sparrow.

In 1964, the Screech Owl was the only new species.

In the spring of 1965, these five new species were banded: Black Duck, Mallard, American Widgeon, Kentucky Warbler, and Purple Martin.

TABLE # 1:

SPECIES	AOU NO	1959 S	1959 F	1960 S	1960 F	1961 S	1961 F	1962 S	1962 F	1963 S	1963 F	1964 S	1964 F	1965 S	1965 F	Total
Black Tern	077		10													10
Mallard	132													28		28
Black Duck	133													6		6
Am Widgeon	137													1		1
Le Bittern	191	1	2												1	1
Bl Wing Teal	140														1	1
Virginia Rail	212														1	1
Sora Rail	214							1		1						3
Am Woodcock	228							1		2						3
L Sandpiper	242		1													1
Mourning Dove	316	1				2										3
Sh Sh Hawk	332					1									2	3
Screech Owl	373				1								2			2
Y Bil Cuckoo	387							1			1		2			4
Bl Bil Cuckoo	388				1				4			1	1			4
Downy Wdpkr	394	1	3		7		7			1	3		6	2	6	40
YB Sapsucker	402		7		7	1	1	2	1	1	3		2	2	1	28
YSh Flicker	412						3	4			2	2		2	1	14
Whip-P-Will	417										1					1
E Kingbird	444	1		2		1				1						5
GrCr Flychr	452									2	2			6	1	11
E Phoebe	456		7	1	3	1	25		16		10		4	1	12	80
OlvSide Flyc	459									2			1			3
E Wd Pewee	461	3	13	5	7	4	6	4	10	4	16	1	16	4	5	98
YB Flycatcher	463		3	1	10		10		3	9	17	1	22	6	26	108
Trail Flycat	466	1	2		3	4	2	1	1	8	1		2	3	1	29
Lst Flycatcher	467		3	24	8	7	12	6	9	21	6	13	7	13	5	134
Empidonax	467.9	8	20													28
Blue Jay	477		5				48	1	2		1		7		1	65
Starling	493	1						1								2
BH Cowbird	495	6		4		4		2		2	6			4		28
Rdwing Blkbd	498	36	19	34	14	29	8	25		10	1	15		8		199

TABLE # 1: (continued)

SPECIES	AOU NO	1959 S	1959 F	1960 S	1960 F	1961 S	1961 F	1962 S	1962 F	1963 S	1963 F	1964 S	1964 F	1965 S	1965 F	Total
Orch Oriole	506					1										1
Balt Oriole	507			1		1						1				3
Rusty Blkbd	509	1	49		6		4					1	4		9	74
Com Grackle	511	9		5	2	11		12		10	8	12	2	2		73
Purple Finch	517						6		10		32		2		3	53
Am Goldfinch	529	9	4	3	9	12	5	4	14	19	5	2	9	9	7	111
SavannaSparrow	542		2			1						1				4
WhCrown Sparrow	554	2	7	12	28	11	3	5	5	6	8	1	4	5		97
Wh Thr Sparrow	558	91	111	57	174	54	87	110	169	160	149	185	82	220	39	1688
Tree Sparrow	559	5	10	11	3	4	14	1	4	6	19		15			92
Chipping Spar	560	1										1		1		3
Field Sparrow	563		3	1	1	1	2	2	8	1	5	2	2	1	1	30
Sl Col Junco	567	6	25	3	9	31	16	4	38	24	58	4	21	7	3	249
Song Spar	581	11	44	9	27	10	42	5	37	4	49	2	26	9	12	287
Lincoln Spar	583	7	11	2	6	4	6	5	9	14	9	8	2	15		98
Swamp Spar	584	17	55	18	88	18	56	23	130	27	100	26	33	59	18	668
Fox Sparrow	585	2		1	1	1	4		10		10	1	6		2	38
E Towhee	587	2			1	2	2		2	1	1	2	4	4	1	22
Cardinal	593	2	4			4	1	2	7	5	2	1	2	1	3	34
R B Grosbeak	595	3		2	1	9	1	5	2	6	3	2	1	8	3	46
Indigo Bunting	598		6	5	12	6	2	2	2	9	2	3		7		56
Scar Tanagr	608		1	2		1		1	1	1	1		2	4	3	17
Barn Swallow	613	8		16		12										36
Tree Swallow	614	4		1		3		1		4		2		2		17
Bank Swallow	616	6		5		17										28
Rough W Swallow	617	2		36		5										43
Ced Waxwing	619								3		6		1	1	4	15
Redeye Vireo	624	2	18	4	16	1	19	3	4	14	21		14	1	14	131
Phil Vireo	626		2				2		1	2	6	1	7		2	23
Warbl Vireo	627	2		1	3	4				6	1			2	1	20
Y Thr Vireo	628					1			1							2
Solitary Vireo	629	3	12	3	4	8	8	2	5	2	8	1	4	3	6	69

TABLE # 1: (continued)

SPECIES	AOU NO	1959 S	1959 F	1960 S	1960 F	1961 S	1961 F	1962 S	1962 F	1963 S	1963 F	1964 S	1964 F	1965 S	1965 F	Total
Wh Eye Vireo	631			1			1									2
Bl-White Warb	636	1	16	1	27	13	23	13	16	36	28		22	16	23	235
WormEating W	639							1	1							2
Brewster War	641.2			1		1										2
Goldnwing	642					2										2
Nashville	645	12	22	18	9	23	64	27	27	51	51	12	38	36	30	420
Orangecrown	646	1	12	1	4		14	1	3	2	8		7		4	57
Tennessee	647	9	22	5	6	12	40		36	12	53		137	6	54	392
Parula	648				1	1	1			2				1	2	8
Cape May	650	3	4	4	9	3	4	6	12	7	14	1	14	7	9	97
Yellow	652	9	1	21	1	32		14		15	1	7	1	20	1	123
Bl Thr Blue	654		16		9	5	24	6	17	15	25	3	31	1	11	163
Myrtle	655	16	22	41	17	68	63	84	125	75	287	20	41	76	67	1002
Magnolia	657	3	85	18	96	58	170	28	116	97	185	20	184	64	107	1231
Cerulean	658			1												1
Chestnutside	659		7	6	10	23	25	22	15	26	44	17	38	20	22	275
Baybreasted	660		10		18	8	57	1	23	5	18	11	18	6	13	188
Blackpoll	661	2	15	1	9	7	37	9	96	2	73		131	1	140	523
Blackburnian	662			1	3	1	3		3	4	2	7	7	3	4	38
Bl Thr Green	667		8		7	7	35	3	5	7	27	11	9	10	25	154
W Palm	672	2	1	18		4		14		21	2	4		11		77
Ovenbird	674	2	14	6	8	7	20	25	25	36	38	13	43	9	22	268
N Waterthrush	675	6	3	8	7	3	8	12	2	14	12	4	7	12	9	107
Kentucky	677													1		1
Connecticut	678		2		2		1		1		1		1		1	9
Mourning	679		2	2	4	5	3	9	4	10	14	4	12	4	8	81
Yellowthroat	681	8	68	19	93	34	93	45	80	49	90	25	86	47	49	786
Yel Br Chat	683	2		1		1		1		2						7
Hooded	684					1										1
Wilson's	685	1	18	12	24	6	31	5	15	17	52	5	21	5	32	244
Canada	686	5	13	11	18	21	17	5	17	11	30	4	36	10	23	221
Am. Redstart	687	2	22	6	17	13	43	9	44	25	39	7	78	11	45	361

TABLE # 1: (continued)

SPECIES	AOU NO	1959 S	1959 F	1960 S	1960 F	1961 S	1961 F	1962 S	1962 F	1963 S	1963 F	1964 S	1964 F	1965 S	1965 F	Total
House Sparrow	688.2									3		1	1			5
Catbird	704	5	46	7	42	16	45	14	49	39	40	17	44	21	15	400
Br Thrasher	705		4	1	1		1	1	1	7	1	3	4	1	2	27
House Wren	721	1	1		4	3		4	3	8	2	1	4	5	2	38
Winter Wren	722		16		41	1	70		65		51	1	22	3	32	302
Sh Bill M Wren	724								1							1
Long B M Wren	725		19		23		60		33		11		3		7	156
Br Creeper	726	4	87	9	108	44	211	4	147	20	144	24	71	41	108	1022
Wh Br Nuthatch	727						48				15				52	115
R Br Nuthatch	728	2	10				65	13			40	14	2		31	177
Tufted Titmouse	731						1									1
B C Chickadee	735		20	14			154				67	4			15	274
Gld Cr Kinglet	748		331	9	205	53	694	2	984	7	133		155	27	338	2938
Ruby Cr Kinglet	749	6	239	11	245	31	400	8	266	44	197	23	137	39	173	1819
Bl G Gnatcatch	751	1			1	1										3
Wood Thrush	755			1	1		3	3	4	12	8	1	7	3	2	45
Veery	756	1		3		2		6		28	8	10	4	13	3	78
Gray Ch Thrush	757		39		11	2	12	3	33	1	37		72	2	19	231
Swainson's	758	8	87	9	25	19	36	18	44	30	138	15	131	30	44	634
Hermit Thrush	759	7	45	1	70	3	65	7	100	22	104	18	98	12	19	571
Robin	761			2		2		1	6	3		3	1	2	1	21
TOTALS		373		540		820		660		1148		602		1023		
		1786		1627		3047		2927		2666		2033		1759		
		2159		2167		3867		3587		3814		2635		2782		21011

NO. OF SPECIES	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	F	S	F
	58	65	64	63	73	69	64	65	59	77	59	71	70	72
FOR THE YEAR	82		80		92		79		84		80		87	

SUMMARY - Table # 1:

		1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
NO. BANDING DAYS	SPRING:	17	13	13	13	13	9	10
	FALL :	27	27	31	18	19	22	20
	TOTAL :	44	40	44	31	32	31	30
NO. NET HOURS	SPRING:	361	409	111	975	1170	810	800
	FALL :	803	811	333	1860	1233	1650	2000
	TOTAL :	1164	1220	444	2835	2403	2460	2800
NO. BIRDS BANDED	SPRING:	373	540	820	660	1148	602	1023
	FALL :	1786	1627	3047	2927	2666	2033	1759
	TOTAL :	2159	2167	3867	3587	3814	2635	2782
NO. SPECIES BAND.	SPRING:	58	64	73	64	69	59	70
	FALL :	65	63	69	65	77	71	72
	TOTAL :	82	80	92	79	84	80	87
Approx no. weighed FALL :		0	200	300	200	500	1000	1000
BEST DATES	SPRING:	5/2	5/8	5/7	5/13	5/13	5/11	5/18 5/3 5/8 5/15
	FALL :	9/20	9/3 10/4	10/3	10/21	10/13	9/21	9/12 10/16
OPERATORS:		Wrights Trobaugh	Wrights Trobaugh Erickson Wolcott	Wrights Trobaugh W-E	Wrights Trobaugh W-E	Wrights Trobaugh	W-E Garbut Trobaugh	Wolcott Erickson Garbutt Randall Rheaume Norris
NUMBER OF RETURNS:		4	14	26	38	22	20	14

TOTAL BIRDS BANDED: (1959 - 1965) 21,011
TOTAL SPECIES BANDED: (1959 - 1965) 116
TOTAL RETURNS (1959 - 1965): 148

TABLE # 2: DISTRIBUTION OF BANDING TOTALS BY FAMILIES

FAMILY	1959 *NO.	1959 **%	1960 NO.	1960 %	1961 NO.	1961 %	1962 NO.	1962 %	1963 NO.	1963 %	1964 NO.	1964 %	1965 NO.	1965 %
Sylviidae	577	26.7	471	21.7	1179	30.2	1260	35.1	381	10.0	315	12.0	577	20.7
Parulidae	467	21.6	601	27.7	1135	29.4	1023	28.5	1635	43.0	1137	43.0	1078	38.7
Fringillidae	440	20.4	484	22.3	415	10.7	615	17.1	734	19.2	450	17.1	434	15.6
Turdidae	187	8.7	123	5.7	144	3.7	225	6.3	391	10.2	360	13.7	150	5.4
Icteridae	120	5.6	66	3.1	58	1.5	39	1.1	37	1.0	35	1.3	23	0.8
Certhiidae	91	4.2	117	5.4	255	6.6	151	4.2	164	4.2	95	3.6	149	5.4
Tyrannidae	61	2.8	64	3.0	72	1.9	50	1.4	99	2.6	67	2.5	83	3.0
Mimidae	55	2.5	51	2.3	62	1.6	65	1.8	87	2.3	68	2.6	39	1.4
Vireonidae	39	1.8	32	1.5	44	1.2			60	1.6	27	1.0	28	1.0
Troglodytidae	37	1.7	68	3.1	134	3.5	106	3.0	72	1.9	31	1.2	49	1.7
Hirundinidae	20	1.0	58	2.7	37	1.0			6					
Paridae					155	4.0			67	1.8				
Sittidae					113	2.9			55	1.4			83	3.0
Corvidae					48	1.3								
Others	45	2.0	32	1.5	16	0.5	53	1.5	32	0.8	50	2.0	89	3.3
Totals	2159	100%	2167	100%	3867	100%	3587	100%	3814	100%	2635	100%	2782	100%

*No. - No. banded
** % - % of total
*** In each year, the highest percentage is underlined.

TABLE # 3: SUMMARY OF TABLE # 2 For the seven-year period.

FAMILY	NUMBER BANDED	% OF TOTAL
Parulidae	7076	33.7
Sylviidae	4760	22.6
Fringillidae	3572	17.0
Turdidae	1580	7.5
Certhiidae	1022	4.8

TABLE # 3: SUMMARY OF TABLE # 2 For the seven-year period. (continued)

FAMILY	NUMBER BANDED	% OF TOTAL
Icteridae	515	2.4
Troglodytidae	497	2.4
Tyrannidae	496	2.4
Mimidae	427	2.0
Others	1066	5.2
Totals	21,011	100.0

TABLE # 4: TEN SPECIES CAUGHT IN LARGEST NUMBERS

SPECIES	FAMILY	NUMBER BANDED	% OF FAMILY TOTAL
Gold-Crown Kinglet	Sylviidae	2938	61.7
Ruby-Crown Kinglet	Sylviidae	1819	38.2
White-throat Spar	Fringillidae	1688	47.3
Magnolia Warbler	Parulidae	1231	17.4
Brown Creeper	Certhiidae	1022	100.0
Myrtle Warbler	Parulidae	1002	14.2
Yellowthroat	Parulidae	786	11.1
Swamp Sparrow	Fringillidae	668	18.7
Swainson's Thrush	Turdidae	634	40.1
Hermit Thrush	Turdidae	571	36.1

The two species of Kinglets total 99.9% of Sylviidae banded.

The White-throated Sparrow plus the Swamp Sparrow total 66.0% of all Fringillidae banded.

The three Warblers, Magnolia, Myrtle, and Yellowthroat, total 42.7% of Parulidae banded.

The Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes total 76.2% of all Turdidae banded.

RECOVERIES AND RETURNS:

Since 21,011 birds wear Bradley's Marsh bands, there should be a few of them found elsewhere throughout the United States and Canada each year. This has been disappointing. There have been only six Recoveries of the Bradley's Marsh birds in areas other than along the south and east shores of Lake St. Clair. One Gold-crowned Kinglet was shot in Louisiana in 1962.

RECOVERIES:

Band no.	Species	A	S	Date Banded	Date Recovered	Place of Recovery
62-62887	Mourning Warbler	A	M	05-26-62	05-25-63	Dayton, Ohio
32-18895	Gold-crown Kinglet	U	F	10-22-61	04-22-63	Kincardine, Ontario
32-64195	Gold-crown Kinglet	U	M	10-20-62	12-22-62	Campti, Louisiana
562-22128	Rusty Blackbird	U	U	11-01-59	02-07-60	Lynnville, Tennessee
58-116750	Catbird	A	U	10-07-60	05-27-61	Port Credit, Ontario
623-20215	Blue Jay	U	U	10-07-61	02-02-63	Wiarton, Ontario

Foreign Banded Birds netted and released

Band no.	Species	Date Recovered	Where Banded	Date Banded
32-13891	E Wood Pewee	09-01-63	Long Point, Ontario	09-04-61
25-192342	White Throat Sparrow	05-02-59	Adrian, Ohio	05-05-58

The percentage of banded birds returning to the Marsh is also low. The ones who do return year after year are probably nesting in the area, not migrants passing through.

The total number of returns is 148.

Two Indigo Buntings, banded in 1959, were still returning in 1964, and one was in a net again in May, 1965. One of these Indigo Buntings has returned six times, spring and fall, between 1959 and 1965. One Yellow-throat has returned five times between 1961 and 1963. Two Song Sparrows returned four times and one Song Sparrow three times. Five Yellow-throats have returned three times.

The most interesting ones are given in greater detail in Table # 5.

TABLE # 5: INTERESTING RETURNS:

RLW - banded by Robert L. Wright
WE - banded by Wolcott-Erickson

YELLOWTHROAT	AOU 681	A S	Date Banded	Banded by	Return Dates
	29-65193	A M	05-17-60	R L W	5-13-61, 5-19-62
	29-65833	A F	05-14-61	R L W	9-25-61, 10-06-62
	29-77562	A F	05-27-61	R L W	9-27-61, 5-18-62, 9-23-62
	29-77442	A M	05-13-61	R L W	9-30-61, 4-29-62
	29-65795	A M	05-14-61	R L W	10-08-61, 5-14-62, 9-08-62, 5-18-63, 9-22-63
	29-65807	A M	05-14-61	R L W	9-14-61, 5-14-62
	29-77636	I M	08-26-61	R L W	5-26-62, 8-31-63
	29-77366	A M	05-07-61	R L W	9-02-62, 5-19-63, 5-10-64
	29-77824	A M	09-04-61	W - E	5-30-63, 5-16-64
	29-77971	I M	09-24-61	W - E	5-20-62, 9-02-62, 5-19-63
	32-26578	A M	09-02-62	W - E	5-03-64, 5-16-65
	32-64807	A M	05-11-63	W - E	9-15-63, 5-02-64, 5-16-65
	102-08147	U F	08-31-63	W - E	5-16-64, 8-31-64, 5-23-65
	102-08167	I F	08-31-63	W - E	5-16-64, 5-16-65
INDIGO BUNTING	AOU 598				
	29-11933	A M	08-29-59	R L W	5-21-60, 5-21-61, 5-19-62, 9-01-63, 5-16-64, 5-15-65
	61-83119	A M	05-29-59	R L W	5-19-60, 5-17-64
Cardinal CARDINAL	AOU 593				
	56-174025	A F	04-25-59	R L W	5-08-60, 10-03-60
SWAMP SPARROW	AOU 584				
	62-62266	A U	04-23-61	R L W	10-22-61, 10-21-62
	62-62827	I U	11-11-61	R L W	4-28-62, 10-20-62

SONG SPARROW AOU 581

26-141720	A U	10-12-58	R L W	4-18-59, 8-15-59	
27-108413	A U	08-08-59	R L W	4-16-60, 10-07-61, 9-02-62	
27-108423	A U	09-07-59	R L W	9-11-60, 9-09-61	
26-163007	A U	04-24-60	R L W	4-22-61, 4-28-62	
26-163429	A U	10-29-60	R L W	4-23-61, 9-02-61, 5-19-62, 4-29-63	
26-163668	U U	10-20-62	W - E	4-27-63, 9-29-63, 4-25-64, 10-04-64	
27-144727	U U	10-20-63	W - E	5-10-64, 5-29-65.	

DOWNY WOODPECKER AOU 394

26-163097	A F	08-27-60	R L W	9-24-61, 5-02-64	

FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS:

1. Banding of migrating and resident birds will be continued spring and fall. All fall weights and wing measurements will be sent to Operation Recovery - care of Chandler Robbins. The study of skull ossification and the use of any other methods for determining age and sex will be practiced as consistently as possible.

2. More banders will be sought for opening up a greater portion of the Marsh. It has never been ascertained that the section selected by Bob and Mary Wright is the best netting area.

3. Groups of adults and of children visit Bradley's Marsh to see the banding processes, to learn bird identification, to observe methods of determining age and sex in certain species, and to record migration peaks and unusual late or early dates. This kind of "education of the public" will be continued and encouraged.

4. Banding operations have been concentrated on the small perching birds. Plans are being made by the Norman Randalls of Chatham, Ontario, to set up nets along the beach for shore birds.

5. Along the shore of Lake St. Clair, a group of banders, authorized from Ottawa, set up five netting and trapping areas for ducks. This operation was begun August 1, 1965, and has averaged 100 to 300 banded each day. Two of these trapping areas are located on the Bradley property. It has not been decided whether this duck-banding will be continued another year or not.

6. The University of Guelph, Ontario, has set up an experimental station on the Bradley's property for a four-year study of blackbirds. Their sign reads: "Bradley Marsh Blackbird Field Research Station, Univ. of Guelph." Dr. Dyer is in charge, and there is a full-time staff operating nets, traps, and a well-equipped laboratory. Some of the studies center on food-intake, others on a fungus-growth on feet and bills, and still others on behavior of blackbirds. Nests have been marked with red "ribbons" on the reeds, and are inspected constantly during the nesting period.

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