

visitors bringing in food and supplies, and Gladys Cole/Chan at your right hand! Since I had no idea what I might get, every day was like a Christmas stocking. I ended up with 1049 individuals of 65 species, which includes 74 returns from previous years' irregular winter banding, and one foreign Painted Bunting (not yet verified). My net hours were 2712. Unusual records for this area were a Canada Warbler, a Bell's Vireo, a Philadelphia Vireo and two Wood Thrushes. My biggest day was 58 on Oct. 22, my smallest, 2 on Nov. 7.

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If you receive a particularly interesting foreign retrap or recovery report, please drop me a line. In many of the foreign banding publications, lists of these are published from time to time. I am referring in particular to good examples of reverse migration, direct recoveries and recoveries to areas not heretofore known as habitat for the species in question. In this way, other EBBA members can enjoy reading about them and learn from your recovery information. When submitting these items, please indicate species, age, sex, date banded, place banded, weight, fat class (for direct recoveries) and date and place recovered, and present status of the bird.

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#### AN EXTREME IN GULL'S DEFENSE BEHAVIOR

By Thomas H. Davis

The two photos that appear with this note were taken at a gull colony located at Captree State Park, Suffolk County, New York. Last summer I initiated a breeding bird census-gull study at this colony and found 17 pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls and 830 pairs of Herring Gulls. Their nesting area lies between and around two large parking lots: consequently, it is trespassed on quite frequently by curious people. These photos evidence the gulls' defensive efforts. I have visited several gull colonies and only at Captree have I ever actually been struck. While banding young gulls here I quit after four blows to my head within 15 minutes. I would guess that this extreme defensive behavior is the result of so much human interference.

The Black-backed Gull in the photo is aimed at my head, about ready to utter its charge call, a loud guttural "waugh!". I ducked just after taking this shot and the bird's lowered feet passed through the space vacated by my head. This bird occupied nest B9 which contained three eggs (one of them pipped) on May 30 when I obtained the photograph. You might also note that it wears a band on its left leg; this individual's extreme wariness and aggressive behavior prevented my reading the number with a telescope. I crouched beside the Herring Gull's nest to take its picture. When the bird charged, I waited until it was within ten feet, and then

stood up. The bird veered up, venting its anger with a loud, piercing "keew!". The pictures were taken with a Pentax 35mm. camera using a Kilfitt Makro-kilar 40mm, f2.8 lens and Ektachrome film. I later blew up each gull's image about 2X using an Accura Duplivar duplicating lens.

Those who wish to know more about this study should read my breeding census in the December 1968 Audubon Field Notes. Several EBBA members, Darrel Ford, Tony Lauro, Fred Schaeffer and Will Post, assisted in this study, helping to mark nests and band young.

