

Prevailing species: 185 Red-winged blackbirds; 161 Myrtle warblers; 101 Golden-crowned kinglets; 150 White-throated sparrows.

Most interesting species: Traills flycatcher (1); Prairie warbler (1); Rusty blackbird (1); Carolina chickadee (1); Red-headed woodpecker (1); Tennessee warbler (1).

Returns: Red-winged blackbird (7); Mockingbird (1); House finch (1); Song sparrow (1); (Total 10).

Recovery: Red-winged blackbird 662-12583, banded by Fred Lesser, at Barnegat New Jersey on 8-7-72, recovered by us on 8-22-72.

Best day was October 18th (Wednesday) with 245 birds of 21 species in 32 net hours. Since Sunday the 15th a passage of cold front was predicted and finally passed through the night of the 17th (Tuesday) with snow flurries in Western Pennsylvania. At 0700, on the morning of the 18th the temperature was 44 degrees, skies were very clear, wind was from N-NW at 8 - 10 M.P.H. Dominant species this day were White-throated sparrows (70); Golden-crowned kinglets (41); Myrtle warblers (32); Ruby-crowned kinglets (31). At 1600 all nets were closed and the birds were still coming through as heavy, if not heavier than at 1200. There was only one bander with no help.

--R.F.D.1, Cranbury Road, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

*The August 1973 issue was typed by our new typist, Miss Sharon L. Snyder, 5521 Hill Way, Camp Springs, Maryland 20023. Mrs. Jeff Swinebroad was instrumental in proofreading the camera copies. All titling, layout and insertion of graphs and tables has been done by the Editor. Our sincere thanks to Miss Snyder and Mrs. Swinebroad!*

*A Supplement to Volume 36 will be mailed to all members in good standing, following shortly after the mailing of the August issue. It will contain the descriptions and Minutes of the 50th Anniversary meeting; the By-Laws and the Membership List. (Editor)*

A BIRD BANDER'S DIARY

RALPH K. BELL

One of the nice things about spring is watching it unfold. It is a thrilling time for those that enjoy the outdoors and being a birder has its advantages - the season starts earlier. In fact, it even starts in mid-winter when the Great Horned Owls can often be heard giving their love songs on warm evenings. For many years we had to drive about 2 miles to hear them but now a pair is nesting close enough that one can often be heard calling any hour of the night, even through closed windows.

Some enterprising person has found out that the Great horned owl will accept man-made stick nests and this year a friend of mine who is interested in owls, made 2 boxes approx. 24" square and 6" high. We filled them with sticks, added grapevine bark and shapped it in the form of a nest. We already have one up in a tree so that it will be well weathered by nesting time next winter.

Others are interested in providing Great Horned Owls with artificial nest sites also. EBBA member Ben Burt (Jamesville, N.Y.) wrote me last fall about this. Ben said that a man about 20 miles from him had made 8 Horned Owl nests by weaving sticks into chicken wire to form a basket and then fastened them in likely trees. More sticks were then added and this is topped off by a few sprigs of spruce or other evergreen to look like an old Red-tailed Hawk nest. So far 2 of the 8 artificial nests were successfully used by Horned Owls. Also, EBBA member Gerald Church of Eaton, New York puts up these chicken wire nests (EBBA NEWS Vol. 35, #3, page 233).

Our Red-tailed hawks were often seen circling over the farm on nice days during February and early March. I didn't find their nest last year but knew the nest wasn't far away because 2 young Red-tails would sit on posts (or electric poles) and call for food almost every day for 2 weeks during August last summer. This spring I located their nest high up in a big oak on April 8 and they were already feeding their young. On April 22, I climbed the tree (with the help of 3 ladders) and banded the 2 young. Young Red-tails are really cute and usually whimper softly while