Western Stations Review 1982

Ruth Ogden
5775 N. Camino Real
Tucson, AZ 85718

Introduction

The membership of the WBBA is spread across the western portion of the continent. Distances are so great that few banders are familiar with the operations of others. This first "Station Report" describes briefly the banding done by a number of members, including objectives, some results, extent of effort, and most frequently banded birds.

The activities described here reveal the diversity of interests and goals among WBBA members. There are stations where all birds captured are banded as a part of long term studies of resident and migrant species. One study involves only sea birds on an island off California while another concentrates on hummingbirds in the Rocky Mountains. There is interest expressed in avian ectoparasites and in the local movements of color-banded birds. In the lists of "ten most commonly banded" birds at each station, we can learn much about the complexity of bird communities.

It is desirable to provide coverage of other stations in future issues of NABB. If you band a considerable number of birds or have concentrated on one or a few species over a period of years and would like to have your station included in the review, please write for an outline to facilitate the preparation of your report.

Edmonton, Alberta *533–1133*
Edgar T. Jones

Banding has been conducted at the site for 24 years, with one person normally involved in the operation. The station is located on the edge of a north-south ravine in a mixed spruce-deciduous forest. Banding objectives include studies of population trends, warblers and sparrows.

Most commonly banded species: Common Redpoll 329, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco 300, Tennessee Warbler 281, Chipping Sparrow 275, Yellow-rumped Warbler 256, Black-capped Chickadee 157, American Redstart 80, Ovenbird 70, Blackpoll Warbler 64, Orange-crowned Warbler 63.

West Bench, Pocatello, Idaho *425–1122*
Joseph H. Jeppson

The Pocatello West Branch banding area is located about one mile west and 500′ (150 m) above the Portneuf River at an elevation of about 5000′ (1500 m). The site borders the city limit and is next to a dry ravine and irrigated grain fields. The ravine is about 200′ (60 m) wide and deep and contains vegetation natural to this high, cold desert. Plantings of trees and shrubs in yards along this city boundary have made it a stop for migrating birds flying between the river and 8000′ (2400 m) hills to the southwest. The site is only 60′ by 160′ (18–48m) but is heavily planted with Russian olive and fruit trees, cotoneaster bushes and juniper. Open grassy areas and flower beds provide the birds a concentration of food, water, and cover that is supplemented in winter by seed feeders, suet, and a heated birdbath. Utility lines that cross the back of the lot are used by flycatchers, hawks, and shrikes.

Banding began in 1974 with one regular bander, three nets and a variety of traps. Since then 95 species have been banded and 115 species have been observed. About 50 species are banded each year.

Banding objectives have changed over the years but have included gathering information to supplement the Birds of Idaho Field Check List, providing a study area for university and high school ornithology and biology students, aiding in preparation of age and sex guides for various species, and providing data on movements and the changes in numbers of certain species. Information on sexing and aging of several species has been provided to the Bird Banding Laboratory and is still being gathered on winter populations of Bohemian Waxwings and Townsend's Solitaries.

During 1982 four species new to this site were banded—Red Crossbill, Townsend's Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler and Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler. Not seen, heard nor captured were Lark Sparrows and Horned Larks. These two species seem to have moved out as new subdivisions changed land usage.

Several hundred European Starlings and House Sparrows are captured each year but not banded. Other resident birds are banded selectively. Many migrants return to nest, some regularly over the eight year period. Only two recoveries have been made here of birds banded elsewhere; both were from Utah. Birds banded here have been reported frequently in this area and once from Mexico.

Most commonly banded species: Bohemian Waxwing 192, House Finch 122, Dark-eyed Junco 115, Lazuli Bunting 74, Cassin's Finch 51, American Robin 43, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler 31, Evening Grosbeak 25, Western Tanager 16, Wilson's Warbler 15.

Ogden, Utah *411–1115*
Merlin L. Killpack

Banding begun in 1962 continues with nets and two wire traps on an irregular basis. In 1982, nets and traps were open on some weekends and evenings until June, then daily during most daylight hours through rest of year.

The banding site is an urban city lot 80′ by 140′ (25–45 m) deep, edged with Gambel's (scrub) oak with some fruit trees (apple, plum, pear, and peach). Ornamental shrubs consist of pyracantha, honeysuckle, wild currant, and multiflora rose in addition to three junipers and two blue spruce; adjacent lots have similar vegetation. The lot is about 300 m from foothills covered primarily by Gambel's oak. Feeders are out and food is available all year long. Only one person attends nets and traps.

This banding program investigates population changes and events in the annual cycles (age levels and sex of migrants, length of stay from recaptures, molt, measurements and weights with fat condition).

Efforts thus far indicate increased numbers of some migrants, notably Dark-eyed Juncos and Lazuli Buntings over the past years. Intensive studies are in progress of the age-sex distribution of Lazuli Buntings and the timing of their movements.

Most commonly banded species: Dark-eyed Junco 483, House Finch 368, Lazuli Bunting 314, American Robin 97, Black-capped Chickadee 30, Pine Siskin 28, Black-headed Grosbeak 24, Rufous-sided Towhee 23, Steller's Jay 14, Scrub Jay 13.

Palomarin Field Station *375–1224*
Point Reyes Bird Observatory, California
David F. DeSante

Banding began at this site in May 1966 and continues to the present. Since 1979 our netting program has been standardized as follows: 20 12-m nets are opened beginning 15 minutes after local sunrise, run for six hours, and closed in the same order that they were opened. The location of the nets is constant. This netting operation is conducted daily from 1 April to Thanksgiving. During the remainder of the year nets are run three days/week, usually on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Special nets and traps are also run opportunistically year-round in order to color-band certain species that are under intensive study. All nestlings of these "study" species are also banded.

Two to three persons conduct the standardized netting operation and 4–5 persons conduct the color-banding studies; all are full-time volunteers who receive free room at the Field Station and who stay for three or more months.

The Field Station is located immediately adjacent to the Pacific Ocean at the south entrance of the Point Reyes National Seashore. The netting area is along the interface between our 36 ha (90 acres) study area in California coastal scrub habitat and the Arroyo Honda which contains a dense broadleaf evergreen woodland consisting of coast live oak, California bay-laurel, California buckeye, red alder, and Douglas fir.

Banding is a principal tool of our research programs which are designed to 1) investigate the population dynamics and life history strategies of permanent resident coastal scrub landbirds, 2) monitor the seasonality and phenology of landbird migrants in coastal California, and 3) monitor the annual production of juvenile landbirds in the Point Reyes area.

PRBO has published over 270 scientific papers dealing with birds and marine mammals. Many of them resulted from our work at Palomarin.

Most commonly banded species: Song Sparrow 339, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 312, Western Flycatcher 294, White-crowned Sparrow 286, Wilson's Warbler 278, Wrentit 251, Purple Finch 169, Orange-crowned Warbler 162, Pine Siskin 160, Swainson's Thrush 134.

SE Farallon Island *374–1230*
Point Reyes Bird Observatory, California
David F. DeSante

Some banding began at this site in 1967. There are two major focuses of the banding operation. The landbird banding is used to monitor the abundance, chronology and turnover rate of seasonal migrants and the few seasonal residents. The seabird banding is used to investigate population dynamics and life history strategies of breeding birds using an offshore coastal island. The banding also provides insight into dispersal and mortality patterns.

Three to seven people may be involved in the banding, censusing or observations of known-age individuals at any one time. The station is located on a 120 acre U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge island, which is approximately 28 miles west of San Francisco. The island lies at the edge of the continental shelf and is primarily granitic.

The highest elevation is the site of a lighthouse, at 365'. The vegetation is limited and consists of approximately 15 native and 23 introduced species of plants. The island is the breeding site for 12 different species whose total population is around 230,000 individuals, making it the largest seabird breeding colony on the west coast south of Alaska.

Landbird Banding

Days of operation: stationary mist net was run on 102 days; on some of those days portable mist nets and a stationary trap were also used. Number of nets: there is one stationary double net on the island, a Heligoland trap around a prostrate Monterey pine, a water trap near the nets and a trap at the highest point on the island. Total net hours: the nets are run opportunistically on the island rather than on a fixed schedule. If there is an obvious arrival of new landbirds (which we know of through daily censusing of all landbirds, noting presence or absence of band), and weather conditions are favorable, then the nets and traps are worked for most of the day. Often, however, a steady wind will cause closure of the nets. The total net-hours is therefore a minimum and is derived from the banding data, rather than a precise record of operation. The total is for the double net and does not include the portable nets, for which we have no estimate.

Most commonly banded species: Yellow-rumped Warbler 98, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 84, Wilson's Warbler 84, Dark-eyed Junco 55, Yellow Warbler 44, Swainson's Thrush 37, Western Wood-pewee 34, White-crowned Sparrow 34, Golden-crowned Sparrow 31, Townsend's Warbler 29.

Seabird Banding

This makes up the bulk of the banding on the island. Use of nets: the only species for which nets are used is the Cassin's Auklet. Adults are captured during their morning exodus to sea by placing a net in their flight path. This net was run on 26 days for a total of 20.5 hours, with 434 individuals banded. Box banding: adults and chicks are captured in man-made nest sites and banded. Only two species, Cassin's Auklet and Ashy Storm-petrel, use these constructed sites. In 1982, 633 adult and 253 young Cassin's Auklets were banded this way; 17 Ashy Storm-Petrel chicks were banded in boxes. The remainder of the seabird (and one shorebird—Black Oystercatcher) banding takes place at the nest sites and is almost exclusively banding of the young of the year. Total species: ten seabird and one shorebird species.

69 E. Loop, Camarillo, California *341–1190*
H. Elliott McClure

Banding began over five years ago as a one person operation. Habitat is typical urban for southern California with fruit, palm, pine and cedar trees, shrubs, lawns and gardens.

Objectives are to follow incidence of avian pox in House Finches, to determine age classes, weights and molts in the Spotted Dove and molts in the House Sparrow, and to study hippoboscids and feather mites.

Avian pox is seasonal in the House Finch, most infections occuring from October into February with a peak of 28.5% of the birds infected in December. Most damage is to the feet, with little differences in susceptibillity between the sexes. Young Spotted Doves appear in the population from February into November with peak production during May-June. Young have no neck spots which develop after about one month. Fledglings gain about two grams a day for three weeks after leaving the nest, and then the weight gains and losses fluctuate, probably with food supply and activity. Four species of hippoboscid flies were taken, the most abundant being *Ornithoica vicina* (Walker), a small species found on 25 species of birds. The second most abundant form was *Microlynchia pusilla* (Speiser) found mainly on doves. *O. vicina* was most prevalent on the birds during fall months. Feather mites were more prevalent on House Finches than on other species.

Most commonly banded species: House Finch 810, House Sparrow 590, White-crowned Sparrow 289, Spotted Dove 193, Brewer's Blackbird 45, Brown Towhee 12, Brown-headed Cowbird 9, Scrub Jay 7, Sharp-shinned Hawk 3.

Camarillo Oak Grove County Park *341–1185*
H. Elliott McClure

Banding started just over 4 years ago by one individual. The site is a 25-acre park of live oaks, shrubs and chaparral; sycamore, California walnut, sage, toyon, willow, cactus and senecio dominate. There are many annuals and cattle in a pasture. Objectives include following the effects of a chaparral fire on the bird population, the incidence of avian pox, and prevalence of hippoboscids and feather mites.

When very prevalent in the House Finches, avian pox spilled over to other finches which appeared to suffer severely from it. Hippoboscids followed the same patterns of abundance in the park as at the house. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were the birds most heavily infested with *Ornithoica vicina* (Walker). Feather mites also followed the same patterns of abundance.

After two years of bandng a disastrous chaparral fire destroyed all of the vegetation except in the park itself. It eliminated the Wrentit and greatly reduced both species of towhees. Following a winter of regrowth cattle were put in the pasture, which did not permit the reconstruction to continue. After two years the Wrentit had not returned and both towhees remained fewer. The new environment including a heavy growth of bull nettles and weeds proved favorable for Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow and Lesser Goldfinch. The Lazuli Buntings and Lark Sparrows were new to the area and the goldfinches increased.

Most commonly banded species: House Finch 460, White-crowned Sparrow, 160, Brown Towhee 79, Dark-eyed Junco 70, Lesser Goldfinch 62, Rufous-crowned Sparrow 53, Golden-crowned Sparrow 46, Lark Sparrow 44, Hermit Thrush 44, Song Sparrow 38.

Arcadia, California *341–1181*
Mike San Miguel

Banding at this station was begun in September 1981. It is located behind a flood control dam and adjacent to a residential neighborhood. The native habitat is oak woodland and mixed chaparral but irrigation runoff flowing through storm drains provides water to sustain a small stand of riparian habitat. A large number and variety of birds regularly utilize the area for food, water and shelter. Occasionally nets are set up in the back yard where seed and a water dripper are provided. Some net lanes are flooded during the winter and spring when runoff from the San Gabriel Mountains is heavy.

The purpose of this banding is to determine the size, number and species of birds during spring and fall migration. The large number of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Purple Finches provides an excellent opportunity to study behavior and molt patterns of these species. The short duration of banding (only two years) has not yet provided the time needed to determine trends and to analyze data collected thus far.

Most commonly banded species: Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler 572, Purple Finch 108, White-crowned Sparrow 106, Wilson's Warbler 83, Lesser Goldfinch 55, Lincoln's Sparrow 53, Rufous-sided Towhee 48, Orange-crowned Warbler 44, Lazuli Bunting 39, Bushtit 36.

Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Gothic, Colorado *385–1065*
William A. Calder

Banding begun 11 years ago is now limited to hummingbirds. Ten nets were used on 90 days during the summer of 1982 when hummingbirds were present; two to 15 persons aided in the process. The site is at 2910 m at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, a 54-year old independent educational and research institution. Nets are placed in subalpine meadows, seral aspen, and spruce-fir climax. Some hummingbirds are trapped at feeders.

This banding effort is directed at obtaining information on the neglected biology of hummingbird population dynamics and migration. In 1982, about 600 Broad-tailed, Rufous, Calliope, and Black-chinned Hummingbirds were banded. About 1600 Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Calliope Hummingbirds have been banded and color-marked in the 11 years of operation. Results include the findings that 57% of females return from the previous year's population, some individuals are at least eight years old and some birds re-nest sequentially. Migrant Rufous Hummingbirds have been recaptured in subsequent years. Several papers have been published including "Site-fidelity, longevity, and population dynamics of broad-tailed hummingbirds: a ten-year study" (1983 *Oecologia* 56:359–364).

Candelaria Farms, Albuquerque, New Mexico *350–1064*
C. A. Hundertmark

Banding was initiated at this site in 1979 prior to development of the Rio Grande Nature Center and continued through the development phase and the opening of the Center in 1982. At various times nets have been set over a wide portion of the 160 acre Center; however the majority of netting is done within an area of 30–40 acres. Habitat includes disturbed, open woodland with a cottonwood overstory and Russian olive understory, and both cultivated and fallow fields. Alfalfa and sorghum have been the principal crops. During fall migration, the cultivated fields attract large numbers of passerines, especially granivorous species. During 1982 a pond constructed as part of the Nature Center was filled for the first time. However, introduction of a small flock of pinioned Canada Geese impedes taking advantage of the pond for netting. The banding crew generally ranges from two to ten people, averaging about five.

The banding program investigates species composition and timing of spring and fall migration, and winter population composition and habitat use.

Efforts to date revealed a surprisingly strong *Spizella* migration in autumn and a heavier than expected, but irregular or occasional winter Savannah Sparrow population. Substantiation has been developed for a number of migratory species the status of which is little known in the Rio Grande Valley. A basis has been established in both data and experiences to develop educational programs for the Nature Center and to direct research toward more tightly defined problems.

Most commonly banded species: Chipping Sparrow 200, House Finch 62, Lark Sparrow 50, American Robin 47, White-crowned Sparrow 44, Dark-eyed Junco 41, Lesser Goldfinch 26, Mourning Dove 25, Clay-colored Sparrow 17, Brewer's Sparrow 15.

5111 Soledad Primera, Tucson, Arizona *321–1105*
Philip M. Walters

Banding begun in 1978 continues on a weekly basis with minimal changes in net numbers and sites (none in 1982). At an elevation of 2500′, nets are located in a feeding area immediately below our home on a 3 acre lot isolated by two large washes. Nets are opened one hour before dawn (for owls) for 4–6 hours depending on temperature and are tended by two persons. We are situated in an extensive residential area in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains in Tucson's northern suburb. Vegetation is largely saguaro and prickly pear cacti, cholla, palo verde and acacia with bursage ground cover. Water and food are provided all year.

The banding objectives include investigating variations in population density, migratory and territorial movements and data on arrival and departure dates. In addition to required aging and sexing, data on the following are routinely recorded for each individual handled: weight, wing and tail measurements, degree of molt and feather wear on five areas of the bird, subcutaneous fat, presence of brood patch and development of cloacal protuberance. Where pertinent to aging and sexing studies, eye color, skull ossification and culmen length are recorded. Programs in progress include the preparation of age-sex codes for several species. Seasonal variation in the number of Black-throated Sparrows has been noted as well as longevity data. Several unexpected transients have been banded.

Most commonly banded species: Mourning Dove 578, House Finch 222, House Sparrow 197, White-winged Dove 194, Inca Dove 54, Curve-billed Thrasher 45, Northern Cardinal 33, White-crowned Sparrow 26, Bronzed Cowbird 20, Gila Woodpecker 19.

Camino Real, Tucson, Arizona *321–1105*
Ruth R. Ogden

Banding begun in 1978 continues with nets in use on an irregular schedule during the morning hours, tended by one or two persons. Nets are placed over a 0.8 ha (2 acre) residential area at an elevation of 2600′ (780 m) in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains in Tucson's northern suburbs. Native vegetation dominated by saguaro cactus and palo verde is favored by most homeowners on their 0.4 + ha (1 acre) lots; an undeveloped desert area of 320 ha (800 acres) is immediately to the northeast. Feeders are not regularly stocked but water is always available. No special topographic feature influence the numbers of birds captured.

This banding program investigates population changes and events in the annual cycle (molt and reproduction) of locally breeding birds. Most of the site's breeding birds have been banded and are frequently recaptured, providing information on their reproductive condition, molt, and weight.

Efforts thus far indicate unexpected seasonal movements of Gila Woodpecke;rs, Northern Mockingbirds, House Finches, and House Sparrows. There appears to be little relationship between the onset of nesting and seasonal rains, probably because of the relative stability of the suburban environment. More migrants have been banded than expected, suggesting a thinly dispersed but substantial movement of transients.

Most commonly banded species: House Sparrow 97, White-crowned Sparrow 77, House Finch 66, Gila Woodpecker 58, Curve-billed Thrasher 53, Mourning Dove 29, Northern Cardinal 28, White-winged Dove 24, Northern Mockingbird 23, Inca Dove 20.

Tanque Verde Ranch, Tucson, Arizona *321–1104*
Charles E. Corchran, Winter Bander
Philip M. Walters, Summer Bander

The year 1982 was the 13th of banding at Tanque Verde Ranch with a single program broken down between "summer" and "winter." Philip M. Walters is the "summer" bander (April to October) and Charles E. Corchran is the "winter" bander (October to April). During the 13 years, we have handled 37,426 birds. We conduct weekly banding from one hour before dawn to 0930 using 17 to 26 nets in areas well stocked with tray feeders and bird baths. An expert volunteer crew of 5 to 9 assists the bander.

Tanque Verde Ranch, elevation 2750′ (820 m) is 20 miles (32 km) east of Tucson in the Lower Sonoran Zone consisting of mesquite and palo verde, a broad variety of cactus plus limited grassy areas and weed patches. A 0.4 ha (1 acre) fresh-water pond abuts a large cottonwood grove in the flood plain of a major wash. Nets are distributed over 16 ha (40 acres) containing this desirable habitat for summer nesting species and wintering migrants. The banding objectives include variation in population density, migratory and territorial movement, and arrival and departure dates. In addition to required aging and sexing, data on the following are routinely recorded for each bird handled: weight, wing and tail measurements, molt, feather wear, subcutaneous fat, presence of brood patch, and development of cloacal protuberance. Where pertinent to aging and sexing, eye color, skull ossificatgion, and culmen length are also recorded.

A program restricted to "winter" involves the large population of White-crowned Sparrows, *gambelii* race, where our particular interest is in the return-ratio of mature vs immature birds plus a continuing investigation of measurable cloacal protuberance during the "winter." Through 1982 we handled 19,322 White-crowns; 12,471 were banded and 6,851 recaptured. This recapture figure includes "repeats."

Most commonly banded species for "Summer": House Sparrow 224, Mourning Dove 152, Inca Dove 58, White-winged Dove 52, Lucy's Warbler 47, Brown-headed Cowbird 47, Curve-billed Thrasher 36, Abert's Towhee 36, Lesser Goldfinch 34, Northern Cardinal 24, Yellow Warbler 24.

Most commonly banded species for "Winter": White-crowned Sparrow 901, House Finch 151, Mourning Dove 98, House Sparrow 46, Lincoln's Sparrow 38, Inca Dove 27, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 24, Northern Cardinal 23, Brewer's Sparrow 17, Gila Woodpecker 16.

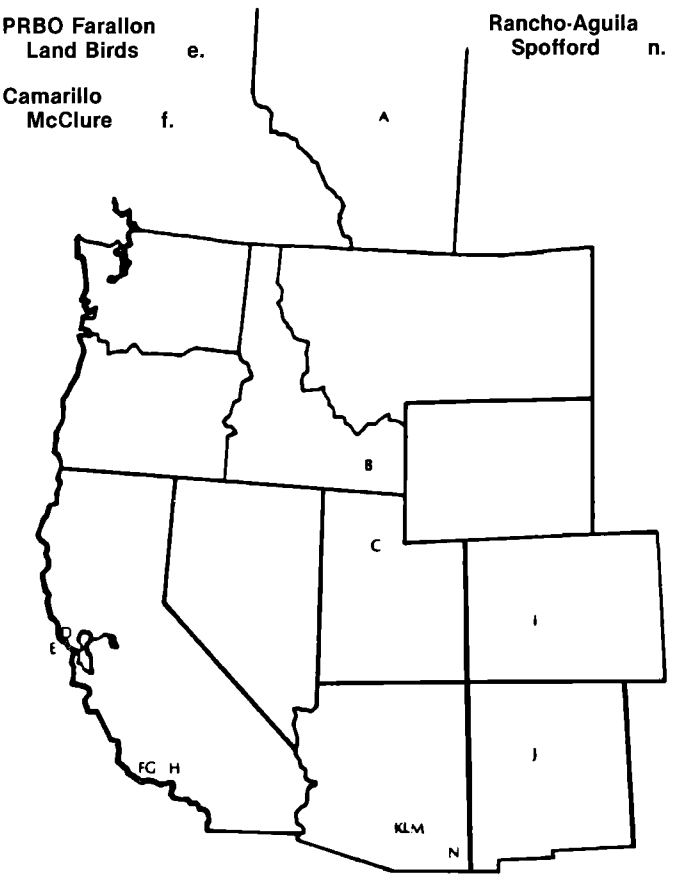
Rancho-Aguila, Portal, Arizona *315–1090*
Sally H. Spofford

I have banded here for the past 11 years, since 1972, without assistance save for measurements of larger species. The traps are set in our bird-feeding area, which has hanging and post feeders, brush piles, a large Emory oak tree, smaller junipers and Arizona cypress, and one walnut tree. The ground is gravel with some grass and weeds, and some feeding is done on the ground. Elevation is just under 5000′ (1500 m) at the mouth of a canyon, with steep hills rising from the valley floor. Adjoining property is desert scrub with mesquite, prickly-pear and cholla cacti.

Objectives are to ascertain 1) composition of winter population, 2) return of individuals to wintering grounds, 3) age composition and molt progress in White-crowned Sparrows (most years have many more than in 1982), 4) flock composition in Gray-breasted Jays (from earlier color-banding), and 5) altitudinal movements during the season. Little banding is done after mid-March because of numbers of visitors.

Most commonly banded species: Pine Siskin 143, Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco 13, Bridled Titmouse 8, Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 7, White-breasted Nuthatch 5, White-crowned Sparrow 5, Yellow-eyed Junco 4, Lincoln's Sparrow 3, Northern Cardinal 3. I frequently catch Gambel's Quail, Mourning Doves, House Sparrows, and House Finches but do not band them.

Station	Loc.	Station	Loc.	Station	Loc.
Edmonton Jones	a.	Camarillo Park McClure	g.	Tucson Walters	k.
Pocatello Jeppson	b.	Arcadia San Miguel	h.	Tucson Ogden	l.
Ogden, Utah Killpack	c.	Bio. Lab Colo Calder	i.	Tanque Verde Corchran	m.
PRBO Palomarin	d.	Alb, NM Hundertmark	j.	Tanque Verde Walters	m.
PRBO Farallon Land Birds	e.			Rancho-Aguila Spofford	n.
Camarillo McClure	f.				



	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	-j	k	l	m	m	n
Total Days	68	97	199	283	102	45	50	90	90	28	50	29	25	20	44
Nets—Number	8-15	1-3	2-4	20	2+		8-10	1-8	1-10	3-10	8	5-15	20-26	17-21	
hours		1695	2587	33,376	717		2250	3488		1309	1966	1404	2128	1599	
Birds/100 hrs		69.4	58.0	11.3			74.8	49.6		66.2	96.3	60.6	108.5	77.0	
Traps—Number			2		3	18				0-2					1-6
Largest daily catch	101	103	83	56	64	155	94	105	39	81	104	55	145	154	20
no. banded 1982	2767	801	1502	4145*	979	1883	1362	1730	600	729	1466	568	1447	982	199
no. encountered 1982	± 2800	1180	1726	6781*	1219	4008	1684	± 2680		875	1893	851	2309	1232	222
no. species 1982	91	45	43	85*	115	16	48	66	4	58	33	39	41	54	17

*Includes traps and nets.

EMERSON A. STONER

1892–1983

Emerson A. Stoner, Charter Member of the Western Bird Banding Association (1926) and its President from 1953 to 1957, died in his 90th year on 9 March 1983, just 22 days after Myrtle E. Stoner, his wife of 65 years, died in her 87th year. Emerson was born in Toledo, Iowa 27 June 1892, spent his boyhood, and went to school in Des Moines. He moved to Oakland, California in 1914 and attended Heald Business College. Because of pressures of World War I, Emerson set aside plans to continue his studies at the University of California at Berkeley and moved to Benecia in 1917 to take a job at the Benicia Arsenal. Myrtle, a native of Oakland, came to join him in marriage in 1918. Both were very active in community affairs. Their many friends were always welcome in their lovely home at 285 East "L" Street in Benicia. Emerson and Myrtle are survived by two daughters, Jean Osborn of Benicia and Marjorie Elmore of San Jose, their son Donald Stoner of Benicia, ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

In 1957, Emerson retired from the Benicia Arsenal as its Chief Fiscal Officer. Heeding the call, he became Point Reyes Bird Observatory's first Treasurer in 1965. He served the Observatory well for eight years—until at Myrtle's urging he retired again in 1973. He was then elected to PRBO's Advisory Board where he served until his death.

Emerson frequently said that he had been interested in birds as long as he could remember. He once related that as a child he became interested in a pair of bluebirds nesting in an old woodpecker nest cavity in a hickory tree. He used books from the Des Moines public library to learn about birds, including how to do taxidermy and how to blow eggs for an egg collection.

He continued his bird studies in California and in 1921 began sixty years of bird banding as one of the early Bird Banding Cooperators of the old U.S. Biological Survey. He banded hundreds to several thousand birds a year on their large double residential lot in Benicia. Over the years, hundreds of his banded birds have been recovered in distant places from Canada to Florida and Mexico. His daughter, Marjorie Elmore of San Jose, shared her father's interests in natural history and is today a Federal Bird Banding Cooperator and member of the WBBA.

A self-taught natural scientist, Emerson early in the century acquired the necessary State of California and Federal permits and over the years made beautifully curated oological and scientific bird and mammal study skin collections. In the late 1970's he donated selected portions of nearly all of his collections and much of his fine natural history library to local schools, to Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Los Angeles. A pick-up truck load of eggs and skins we delivered to the WFVZ in 1978 included 94 sets of Scrub Jay eggs, representing just a portion of probably the largest collection of Scrub Jay eggs ever made by one collector.