
BRADDOCK BAY RAPTOR RESEARCH
HAWK BANDING SUMMARY
SPRING 1995

A hawk banding project was conducted during the spring of 1995 by Braddock Bay Raptor Research. It was the twelfth consecutive year for the project. The season was highlighted by a new season record high for three species and for the number of foreign retraps and returns.

This year, the BBRR staff once again offered free, public presentations of hawk banding on weekends at Braddock Bay State Park. During the last weekend of March through the middle of May, we were able to convey our point of view to several hundred people explaining raptor ecology, research and banding, identification, and habitat conservation.

Study Area and Methods

The study area and methodology were as described in *The Raptor Researcher* Volume No. VI-1. The diurnal raptors were captured in the usual manner at one of the five banding stations: Main, North, Hogan Point, Payne Beach and Payne Beach South. In addition to the five hawk

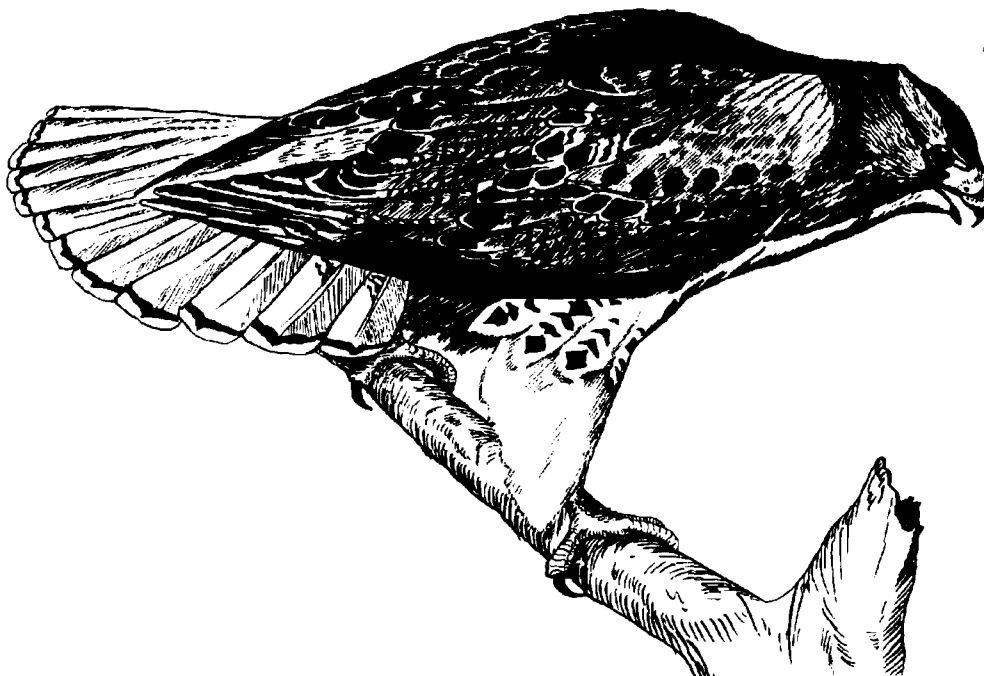
banding stations, the Kaiser/Manitou Passerine Banding Station, and the BBRR owl banding crew captured and banded several hawks in their mist nets. These captures are included in the totals summarized here.

Results and Discussion

A total of 1,047 hawks were captured, banded, and released this spring at Braddock Bay. The total was down from the previous two years as a result of poor weather. There was coverage on 71 of the 91 days between the period 1 March to 31 May. Coverage was not extended on days with inclement weather. Although coverage was excellent, it was down from the previous year. This was primarily due to poor weather. A total of 989.25 hours were logged in at the stations this spring, or an average of 13.9 hours per day. Most of the coverage was logged in Payne Beach Blind and Main Blind.

There were record high totals of Northern Harrier (78), Red-tailed Hawk (146; tied with 1994), and American Kestrel (157).

Frank Nicoletti



Twelve year summary of annual hawk banding totals for the spring 1995 migration at Braddock Bay, NY

Spec.	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total	Avg.
BBEAA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
NOHA	0	2	10	1	2	0	12	17	61	32	57	78	272	23
SSHA	176	192	431	358	652	78	268	319	470	1003	764	473	5184	432
COHA	29	68	129	117	127	27	58	133	135	266	251	177	1517	126
NOGO	3	5	15	20	4	2	2	20	19	14	32	6	142	12
RSHA	0	0	1	0	4	2	2	5	18	1	14	2	49	4
BWHA	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	3	3	9	0	22	2
RTHA	2	8	34	9	11	18	18	70	83	38	146	146	583	49
RLHA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	5	0
AMKE	4	40	65	36	40	28	45	117	57	118	67	157	774	65
MERL	3	1	3	1	1	4	12	6	6	10	7	7	61	5
PEFA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	218	316	688	542	844	160	419	691	854	1486	1347	1047	8612	718

Spring 1995 hawk banding totals by month at Braddock Bay, NY.

Species	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
BAEA	0	0	1	0	0	1
NOHA	0	9	46	23	0	78
SSHA	0	25	288	160	0	473
COHA	0	41	123	13	0	177
NOGO	0	2	4	0	0	6
RSHA	0	1	1	0	0	2
BWHA	0	0	0	0	0	0
RTHA	0	57	80	9	0	146
AMKE	0	12	127	18	0	157
MERL	0	0	6	1	0	7
PEFA	0	0	0	0	0	0
RLHA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	147	676	224	0	1047
Days	0	24	23	24	0	71
Hours	0	239.75	464.5	28.5	0	989.25

**BRADDOCK BAY RAPTOR RESEARCH
OWL BANDING SUMMAY
SPRING 1995**

March

The season started out wonderfully with the first night of operations yielding an Eastern Screech-Owl. Since lake effect does not generally occur at night, Braddock Bay experienced light southerly winds for most of the first three weeks of March. This brought a continuous flow of owls through the area. Just prior to a large cold front passage on 21 March, 21 owls were captured: 6 Long-eared Owls and 15 Northern Saw-whet Owls. The final week of March had northerly winds bringing only a few birds into the area.

One notable return occurred on 15 March. A Northern Saw-whet Owl that was banded on 28 March 1994 at Braddock Bay was re-encountered. The breakdown of banded owls for the month of March is as follows:

Species	1994	1995
NSWO	41	48
SCHO	1	3
LEOW	22	21
GHOW	1	0
SEOW	1	0
Total	66	72

The owls found roosting in the pines were 21 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 10 Long-eared Owls. The largest number of owls found roosting was 11 on 22 March.

Passerines captured during the randomly selected hour of each day included Black-capped Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Common Grackle, Song Sparrow, American Robin, and White-throated Sparrow.

April

A lot of rain and north winds slowed the migration to a halt. One highlight of the month was the capture of one Northern Saw-whet Owl with a brood patch. The peak flight of the month occurred on 22 April when 11 Long-eared Owls were captured and banded between 0400 E.S.T. and 0600 E.S.T.

Species	1994	1995
NSWO	21	3
SCHO	1	0
LEOW	28	19
GHOW	0	1
SEOW	1	0
Total	51	23

The owls found roosting in the pines during April were 4 Northern Saw-whet Owls, 33 Long-eared Owls, and 2 Great Horned Owls. The largest number of owls found roosting was 11 on 22 March.

Passerines captured during the randomly selected hour of each day were 5 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, 1 Common Grackle, 3 Song Sparrows, 1 American Robin, 2 Northern Cardinals, 1 American Tree Sparrow, 2 Eastern Phoebes, and 4 White-throated Sparrows.

Trish Stanko