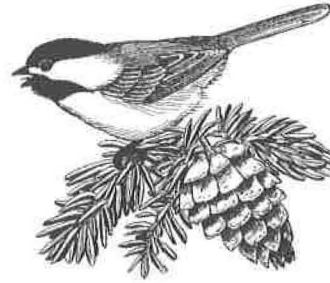


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Black-capped Chickadee
by George West

News, Notes, Comments

Retirement of Flo Soehnlein

Dear Bander,

After more than 39 years of service to the Federal government, Flo Soehnlein retired from the Bird Banding Laboratory on 1 June 2012.

Flo was hired as the Permit Officer for the BBL in 1982, moving to the lab from the Law Enforcement program the US Fish and Wildlife Service where she issued migratory bird permits. During her 30-year tenure as BBL Permit Officer, banding permits evolved from pieces of paper prepared on typewriters to the electronic system in use today. The workload has expanded greatly and the BBL permit office is currently responsible for conducting more than 7,000 permit actions annually, requiring a high level of organization and detailed electronic tracking to provide permits to the banding community in a timely manner. The successful transition to the electronic age was a result of Flo's hard work, willingness to adopt new technologies to meet the increased work load, and dedication to the BBL. Despite this unrelenting work load, Flo remained a helpful, cheerful voice on the phone as she answered questions and provided assistance to the banding community. She was also a very valuable source of information on the BBL permitting process for the various BBL chiefs during her tenure. Her knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed.

The BBL thanks Flo for her dedicated service over the years and wishes her a long, healthy and prosperous retirement. No doubt she will remain active as she enters the retirement phase of her life. Carrol LePore has been assisting Flo in the BBL permit office for the past 4+ years and will assume the responsibilities of that office.

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BARRED OWL RAPID MOLT

The rapid molt of Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) rectrices was discussed previously by Acker and Garcia (2010). They determined that the number of days a Barred Owl takes to molts its' rectrices was unquantified but estimated to take over a month. Recently, Acker has quantified the time and growth of the rectrices from a pair of failed nesting Barred Owls that were observed nearly daily at his home on Bainbridge Island, WA, and captured six times over the molting period. The female was first observed, caught, and banded on 18 Jun 2011 with no tail. Her