

Lake Erie Bass Islands Avian Research Program

In the early 2000s, the Lake Erie Islands Historical Society began sponsoring Elderhostel programs on South Bass Island. One dealt with fishing and the other with wine making and natural history of the islands. The popularity of evening natural history programs and optional morning bird walks soon led to a birding Elderhostel.

In 2003, I was asked by Lisa Brohl, one of the leaders of the Elderhostel, to present a one-day program on bird banding and give a demonstration. The demonstration was conducted on a 20-acre property owned by Mark and Barb Barnhill on the eastern-most part of the island. The program was a success and I was asked back each year after.

In the summer of 2006, I retired from teaching. Lisa called and asked if I would work the week-long Elderhostel. I agreed and banding increased. In 2008, the Elderhostel program increased to two sessions. Lisa is also the chair of the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Land Conservancy. She began using the data we were collecting to help secure funds to buy land on the islands. In 2009, she convinced me to start banding on Middle Bass Island.

In 2010, one of my sub-permittees, James Marshall working at Stone Lab, began a summer banding project on all of the Lake Erie Islands. So, again this year, we now have some bird banding data for South Bass Island, Middle Bass Island, and North Bass Island plus my long-term data from Kelleys Island. Banding data which have been collected over the last nine years have been used to purchase properties on South Bass Island (Scheeff East Point Preserve) and on Middle Bass Island (Middle Bass Island East Point Preserve) within the past year. The Put-in-Bay Township Park District as new owners will use the banding data to help manage the properties for migratory and nesting birds in the future. It is hoped that the banding projects can be increased in years to come.

During the 2011 banding season, banding occurred on 29 days, when 787 individual birds of 66 species were banded on South Bass, Middle Bass, and North Bass Islands. All of the banding done on North Bass Island was conducted by James Marshall as part of his study of avian use of the vineyards there.

In addition, 52 banded birds were recaptured. Of these, 62% were banded in past years. One individual was first banded in 2008, nine birds were banded in 2009, 22 birds in 2010, and 20 earlier in 2011. Perhaps the most outstanding record for this year was a Northern Cardinal captured on 2 May 2011 and which exhibited gynandromorphy, a condition in which the individual has both sets of sex chromosomes and exhibits both male and female plumages.

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Cathie Hutcheson is managing back issues of IBBA publications and is maintaining a complete library of IBBA publications. Hutcheson intends to reduce the bulk of the current inventory by recycling excess copies. To meet these goals, the following announcements are provided:

Available: *North American Bird Bander (NABB)* from 1980 (vol. 5, no. 1) through 2009 (vol. 34, no. 4) as well as a few issues of earlier volumes of *NABB*; issues of *Inland Bird Banding* from 1979 (vol. 51, no. 1) through 1981 (vol. 53, no. 3; issue no. 4 was never published); *IBBA Newsletter* from 1979 - 1986; and *IBBA News* from 1965 (vol. 37) to 1968 (vol. 40). Please email hutche@siu.edu to make inquiries about obtaining copies of any of these publications. Current inventory will be available for a limited time before excess holdings are recycled.

IBBA Library needs *NABB* 1976 (vol. 1, no. 1, 3, and 4), 1977 (vol. 2, no. 1 and 4), 1978 (vol. 3, no. 1), 1979 (vol. 4, no. 1 and 3); and *IBBA News*, 1965 (vol. 37, no. 1, 3, and 6). Scanned copies are

suitable. Also, copies of any of the first 36 volumes of *IBBA News* would be appreciated.

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IBBA Annual Report of Birds Banded, 2011

This table represents a summary of bird banding reported from the IBBA region for 2011. This is the tenth consecutive year of this report. Thirty-nine banders reported banding 87,909 birds and 308 species/forms. Ohio banders reported 31% of banded birds with Illinois/Indiana reporting 23%, Texas 22%, and Michigan/Minnesota/Wisconsin 14%.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird was again the Number One species reported with 11,220 banded. This is both reflective of the abundance of the species and the strong interest in the banding community with this species. American Goldfinches was second again with 6662

reported. Inclusion of one game agency's dove banding placed White-winged Dove with 5489 as third and 2392 Mourning Doves as fifth. White-throated Sparrow was reported as fourth with 2959. Myrtle Warbler was sixth with 2701, Purple Martin seventh with 1801, Gray Catbird eighth with 2304, Black-chinned Hummingbird ninth with 1662, and Swainson's Thrush tenth with 1643.

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SPECIES	MB SK	MI/MN WI	ND/SD NE/KS	IA MO	IL IN	OH	KY TN	OK AR	TX	MS/AL LA	TOTAL	HIGH BANDERS
Wood Duck		1							1		2	1 (D2, K4)
Mallard					1						1	1 (K2)
Plains Chachalaca									1		1	1 (C2)
Pied-billed Grebe						1					1	1 (B2)
Masked Booby									2		2	2 (N1)
N. Gannet									1		1	1 (N1)
Am. White Pelican		566	30								596	596 (D3)
Brown Pelican									2		2	2 (D2)
Double-crested Cormorant						6					6	6 (B6)
Great Egret						53					53	53 (B6)
Snowy Egret						6					6	6 (B6)
Little Blue Heron										1	1	1 (S4)
Green Heron					1						1	1 (K2)
Black-crowned Night-Heron						147					147	147 (B6)
Turkey Vulture	151										151	151 (H1)
Mississippi Kite				1							1	1 (T1)
Bald Eagle				6	1						7	6 (T1), 1 (J2)
N. Harrier				1	1						2	1 (J2, T1)
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2	1		9	15			4	1	32	13 (B6), 9 (J2), 3 (C2)
Cooper's Hawk			71	5	12	1			14		103	71 (D4), 12 (J2), 10 (C3), 5 (T1), 2 (D2)
Harris's Hawk									40		40	39 (C3), 1 (C2)
Red-shouldered Hawk				6	2				37		45	35 (C3), 6 (T1), 2 (D2, K2)
Broad-winged Hawk				2	1						3	2 (T1), 1 (J2)
Swainson's Hawk	9		1						3		13	9 (H1), 2 (C3), 1 (C2, D4)
White-tailed Hawk									128		128	125 (C3), 2 (D2), 1 (C2)
Red-tailed Hawk	3		10	21	131	1			86		252	129 (J2), 85 (C3), 21 (T1), 10 (D4), 3 (H1)
Ferruginous Hawk	19										19	19 (H1)
Rough-legged Hawk	3				1						4	3 (H1), 1 (J2)
Am. Kestrel		59	1	8	28	1			53		150	59 (B3), 51 (C3), 28 (K2)
Merlin	11	4							1		16	11 (H1), 4 (D4), 1 (D2)
Peregrine Falcon					1						1	1 (K2)
Gyr Falcon	1										1	1 (H1)
Yellow Rail									1	7	8	7 (S1), 1 (D2)
Black Rail										1	1	1 (S1)
Virginia Rail						146					146	146 (B6)
Sora					2	22				1	25	21 (B6), 2 (J2), 1 (B2, S1)
Sandhill Crane		1									1	1 (J1)
Semipalmated Plover						90					90	55 (B2), 35 (B6)
Killdeer						101					101	71 (B6), 30 (B2)