

highest total since the 31 banded in 2008. Red-eyed Vireos regained their position in the top ten species banded, after declining at our site for several years. Swainson's Warblers shattered their previous high of 23 (2011), with 28 banded during fall 2012. Some of the other species banded in record or near-record numbers in 2012 can be attributed to the new net in the willow edge of a pond, as compared to the other nets that are within a small hardwood forest. Flycatchers were well-represented in this location; most dramatically the 20 Eastern Phoebes captured in 2012 is ten times the previous highs of two (2002, 2008). We banded 18 Traill's Flycatchers and were able to key out one Willow and two Alder flycatchers using Pyle (1997). The other individuals were either intermediates or the extra measurements were not taken.

We captured 18 returning birds of seven species, including a Western Palm Warbler banded in 2010. The oldest return was of a wintering Ovenbird, banded as a hatching-year bird in 2004. No foreign recoveries were captured this fall.

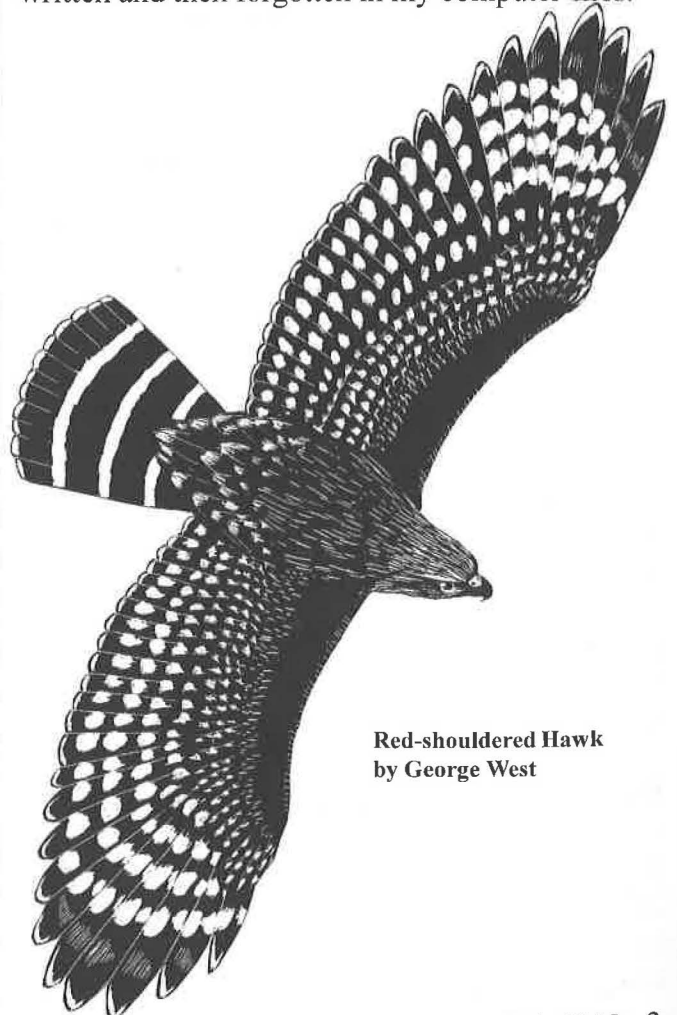
This project would not be possible without the assistance of the dedicated volunteer extractors and banders-in training for the 2012 season: Thanks go to David Schafter, James Currie, Rangel Diaz, Mike Diaz, and Jim King. Special thanks go to David Foster, the park manager, for continuing to support our project.

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After years of below-average rainfall, the year 2012 was almost normal in this respect and, perhaps not surprisingly, migratory thrushes were back among the top ten species banded. However, my banding total continues to remain at about 50% of what I reported a decade or so ago. The main reason is my retreat to our backyard and the adjacent edge of the patch of mixed woods to the south of which, in the past, I had covered an about 300-m long and 50-m wide strip, including a small temporary bog with

shrubs and deciduous trees. For the most part I blame advancing age that made it difficult to visit the nets on a sufficiently regular schedule, and this became a deciding issue when I discovered roaming cats and dogs in the woods and Red-shouldered Hawks surveying the bog. Unfortunately, prowling neighborhood cats increasingly are a problem near our home as well.

Considering these circumstances, I have decided to make this my last contribution to the Flyway Review of the *North American Bird Bander* that I have enjoyed reading and contributing to for over two decades. Let me use this occasion to express my gratitude for the efforts of the various coordinators I had the pleasure of working with, who kept this feature of the journal alive. Chan Robbins deserves special thanks for being my editor during the recent past and for reminding me this year that I had not submitted my report which, it turned out, I had written and then forgotten in my computer files.



Red-shouldered Hawk
by George West