

NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Events

>> **OBBA Spring Bandout - Fri-Sun, April 28-30, 2006 - Hocking Hills, OH**

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH O.B.B.A. MEMBERSHIP IS FOR ANYONE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER YEAR. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. THANKS! ☺

O.B.B.A. NEWSLETTER
TIM TOLFORD, EDITOR
P.O. BOX 157
LIBERTY, IN 47353-0157

The Ohio Bird Banding Association

ORGANIZED IN 1981



Our Mission: We are all responsible for the stewardship of Ohio birds and their habitats. To make the correct environmental choices, we must cooperate to understand their complex behavior.



= Membership is only \$8.00/year =

Renewals and New Memberships may be paid at any OBBA meeting. (Dues may be included with registration fees) School students volunteering at an approved OBBA rostered project, at least twice, receive a one-year membership – FREE! LIFETIME membership is \$100 per individual. E-mail ktolford@juno.com for details.

Donations are accepted and encouraged. Donations may include, but are not limited to: bird books/field guides, banding supplies, binoculars, and monetary gifts. All items donated will be used for OBBA programs and education purposes.

Please complete the *Renewal and New Member Application* (see below) to submit your requests.

President
Tim Tolford
P.O. Box 157
Liberty, IN 47353-0157
513-200-5130
ktolford@juno.com

Vice President
Cheryl Dykstra
cheryldykstra@juno.com

Secretary
Sharon Pawlowski
pawlowsa@uc.edu

Treasurer
Bob Thobaben
1835 SR 380
Wilmington, OH 45177
937-382-4739
Thobaben@erinet.com

Members-at-Large

Lester Peyton lesterpeyton@netzero.net	Anne Smedley jmedley@wcoil.com
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Web Manager
Tim Tolford

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The O.B.B.A. Newsletter accepts articles, announcements, job vacancies, banding tips and items of interest concerning: bird banding, avian research, birding and conservation in and around Ohio.

Newsletter Article Submission Deadlines			
February 1	May 1	August 1	November 1
Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall

Please submit complete, already edited, typed, or printed articles via e-mail or snail mail.

Submit your articles via e-mail to ktolford@juno.com or mail to Tim Tolford, P.O. Box 157, Liberty, IN 47353

Newsletter Editor/Layout - Tim Tolford - ktolford@juno.com – Research Committee: Dave Russell - chair, Cheryl Dykstra, Anne Smedley, Tom Kashmer, Bob Thobaben, John Kuenzli, Jill Russell, Donald Morse, Jr.

O. B. B. A. RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBER APPLICATION 1/2/2005

*Name _____ Organization _____
Please Print Clearly

Mailing Address _____ Ph # (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Check One \$8 RENEWAL \$8 NEW MEMBER \$100 LIFE MEMBERSHIP Today's Date _____

STUDENT DONATION/GIFT ~ I am making a gift/donation to help support the efforts of OBBA.
(free for students who volunteer two times. Include project supervisor's signature in place of "Organization")



Send all requests to Tim Tolford, P.O. Box 157, Liberty, IN 47353-0157

~ Make checks payable to "OBBA" ~

*All membership information submitted to OBBA remains confidential and is not available to solicitors or other organizations without individual member consent.



From The President's Perch



This is my last President's Perch before the new President and officers take over. I want to thank the membership, and those of you who were patient with me as I figured out what to do the first year or so. I gained much knowledge and insight about OBBA – its history and current situation. There are so many of you who have so much to offer. However, the challenge for all of us is finding a way to share with OBBA and its members the knowledge, experience and lessons we have learned over the years. Along those same lines, the challenge for me, as President, has been to re-ignite the spark of excitement about OBBA that existed, at its peak, when OBBA was a newly formed organization. It is unfortunate that many, or perhaps most of the "original" members have either passed away or moved out of the state. Those of you who remain are deeply involved in your own research/conservation efforts.

I would like to think, and I will go so far as to say that OBBA was instrumental in the future successes and motivation of many of you who have moved on to create your own projects, groups, organizations, or take on positions as researchers, naturalists, conservationists, etc. I would further like to think that the inspiration of bird banding research provided by OBBA members has been a starting point and/or life changing experience in your field of research. It was for me! I would not be a part of any research project had it not been for OBBA and the members I met over 18 years ago and now consider life-long friends. Now, like many of you and your involvement with field research, my projects have included volunteers who have furthered their ornithological hobby by educating hundreds of school children about migration and bird banding, started their own non-profit organizations related to bird banding and conservation, and have obtained advanced degrees in ornithology.

Now, imagine how many lives YOU have touched in your field of expertise – especially those of you who have been hard at it for 25-35 plus years! It is humbling to consider the possibilities.

The past few years have been a "re-growth", of sorts, for OBBA. The research committee, and new OBBA members, some of which are current officers and others running for an OBBA office, have given OBBA a renewed vigor towards the organization and a renewed interest in taking OBBA to the next step in its evolution.

The research committee has met several times and have taken steps in a positive direction for OBBA. Most importantly, we will be adding to our goal of providing valuable research opportunities. The areas which we will begin adding new focus and energy to are Education and Training.

The first opportunity for an "organized" educational opportunity will be at the Spring Bandout, April 28-30 in Hocking Hills, Ohio. The camp where we stay will be full of Campfire Boys and Girls for their annual "Spring Skills Weekend". We have had such positive feedback from the youth in the past that the new and current Executive Director has requested that we notify them each year of the Bandout date so they can schedule their weekend the same. This year we will be incorporated into their programming for the day. Bird Banding will be a 'stop' in one of their 'skills' areas. This is very exciting to me and to those who have helped at the camp in the past. If you can save a weekend for a special event, save April 28-30 to help out with the kids! We will also have the opportunity to "mingle" with the youth at a lunch and dinner in the camp's rustic dining lodge. Our participation with them will strongly secure our future with the camp ultimately the future of the Bandout! We can use extra volunteers and "person-power" to help with the children. Come if you can!

The meeting coming up this Spring will be in Delaware Ohio at Ohio Wesleyan University hosted by Jed H. Burt, Jr. We will have a study skin quiz of birds in spring plumage, three or four presentations throughout the day, OBBA Business meeting, continental breakfast and lunch, and time to visit and chat.

The 2006-2008 OBBA officers will also be voted into office and will take over their duties after the opening of the meeting. Please use the enclosed ballot to make your selections or nominations. Mail or e-mail the ballot a.s.a.p.

See you at the meeting!

Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve - Summary of Data - H. Thomas Bartlett

2005 marks the 22nd year of this bird banding/avian research project. Banding was conducted on 32 days during the spring, summer, and fall of 2005. There was a total of 1908.25 net hours of banding with 1996 individual birds handled but some were captured more than once making for 2160 birds handled. 1646 individuals of 85 species were banded this year. This was our second most productive year to date. Our 0.85 birds per net hour was very close to our 22 year average of 0.88 birds per net hour. This was our second year with a permit to band hummingbirds. Because of lack of station help, many in spring and early summer were released unbanded. However, we did manage to band 39 of 48 individual Ruby-throated Hummingbirds captured and had one recapture in May of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird banded by us in June of 2004. One new species was banded for the first time at the marsh. This was a female Golden-winged Warbler. We have now banded 113 species at the marsh since 1983. Other uncommonly banded species for this year were: Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Connecticut Warbler. Perhaps the best bird of the year was a "Pink-sided" Junco banded in March. This Rocky Mountain race of Dark-eyed Junco is very rare east of the Mississippi River and one of less than 6 records for Ohio. 15 species were banded in new record numbers this year. The top ten banded species were: White-throated Sparrow - 198, Gray Catbird - 150, Swamp Sparrow - 139, Song Sparrow - 90, Common Yellowthroat - 80, Northern Cardinal - 69, American Tree Sparrow - 65, Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 63, yellow-rumped Warbler - 56 and Brown-headed Cowbird - 44.

Of the 2160 birds handled this year, 455 were recaptures of banded birds representing 319 individuals. Of these, 155 were originally banded previous to 2005 and 164 were banded during 2005. These represented 33 species. Of these recaptures, 5 were banded in 1999, 4 in 2000, 9 in 2001, 17, in 2002, 38 in 2003, 82 in 2004, and 155 earlier in 2005. The oldest birds were Swamp Sparrow banded as an AHY-M on April 11, 1999 and a Blue Jay banded as an AHY-U on May 30, 1999. Both individuals are at least 7 years old. A "Trail's" Flycatcher banded June 13, 1999 and recaptured on June 6, 2005 was also at least 7 years old and maybe a state age record for this group of flycatchers. Several individuals were recaptured numerous times during the year. A White-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, and 2 different Northern Cardinals were recaptured 5 times during the year. But the title goes to a male Eastern Tufted Titmouse who was recaptured 8 times between March and late October. One has to wonder if we will see him again in 2006.

A total of 165 species were observed at the marsh over 34 census days. This is slightly below normal which is usually closer to 170 species. The breakdown by season was 156 species in the spring, 78 species in the summer, and 114 species in the fall. 5 Greater Scaup observed on March 20th was a first for the marsh since I have been keeping records (1978). Other uncommon species were Sandhill Cranes in the fall, Northern Saw-whet in the spring and fall, Whip-poor-will in the spring, Golden-winged Warbler in the fall, Orange-crowned Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush in the spring. The addition of Greater Scaup now brings the avian species list of Springville Marsh since 1978 to 244 species. The "Pink-sided" Junco adds another race to the list which also includes "Oregon" Junco.

Dispersal and Mortality of Suburban Red-shouldered Hawks (Buteo lineatus) in Ohio. Submitted by: CHERYL R. DYKSTRA

We banded nestling Red-shouldered Hawks in suburban southwestern Ohio (SW OH) and rural south-central Ohio, in order to examine dispersal behavior and to determine causes of mortality. Of 1060 nestling Red-shouldered Hawks banded in SW OH between 1955 and 2004, a total of 54 (5.1%) were encountered (dead or alive) by June 2005. Of 290 nestlings banded in rural south-central Ohio between 1997 and 2004, only two (0.7%) were encountered by June 2005. For SW OH birds, mean distance from the natal nest at the time of the encounter was 39.8 ± 12.5 km, which was not correlated with hawk age. Most birds moved < 30 km, but six were recovered 103 - 500 km away. Cumulative exponential distribution (CED) analysis of distance from natal nest at the time of encounter indicated that 50% of SW OH Red-shouldered Hawks were found < 15.1 km from their natal nest, 75% were found < 30.1 km away and 95% were found < 65.1 km away.

Natal dispersal averaged 16.4 ± 3.7 km, N = 27 (males 10.3 ± 2.6 km, N = 6; females 18.1 ± 3.4 km, N = 7, 14 sex undetermined). Mean age for the hawks recovered dead was 1.8 ± 0.4 years (N = 35). CED analysis of age at recovery indicated that 50% of Red-shouldered Hawks were dead by age 1.1 yr, 75% by age 2.1 yr, and 95% by age 4.5 yr. Of the 32 SW OH Red-shouldered Hawks that were recovered dead, 16 (50%) were simply "found dead", 5 (16%) were hit by vehicles, 4 (13%) were electrocuted, 4 (13%) were found injured and later died, and one each (3%) were caught in a trap, shot, and found as a band with bone or skeleton only.

(Continued from page 3 - Kelleys Island Bird Banding 2005 ...)

2006 may see us trying in March. The spring passerine banding began very slowly with rain on the first day but the second day more than made up for it. On Saturday, May 14, 203 birds of 41 species were banded. This is a single day record for us on Kelleys Island. Fall banding at the "Feathers and Foliage" program produced another 137 species. Total birds banded for 2005 was 485 birds of 64 species making 2005 our best year to date. Three new species were added to the list of banded birds on Kelleys Island. Those were Cooper's Hawk, Philadelphia Vireo, and Song Sparrow. This brings the list to 98 species banded on the island since 1996. The Cooper's Hawk banded on November 5th was the 98th species and 2500th bird banded on the island since 1996. A total of 13 days of banding were attempted with 405 net hours. Birds banded per net hour was 1.20 which is slightly above our 10 year average of 1.13.

This year we attempted more days of owl banding in the fall. I scheduled 5 nights from late October through mid-November. We had a total of 195.25 net hours of owl banding over 6 nights. A total of 12 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 2 Eastern Screech-Owls were banded. This works out to 0.07 birds per net hour which is very low. The unfortunate thing about this fall was that winds were from the southwest every banding night. This is the worst wind to have for migrating birds as it hits them in the face as they try to fly south. Ideal winds would be northwest. Maybe next year we will get lucky. Only 12 individual birds were recaptured during the 2005 banding effort. One of these individuals was recaptured twice. We did have two significant recaptures. One was of a Yellow Warbler on May 14. That individual had been banded by us on May 14, 2000 as an ASY-M. This means that this individual is at least 7 years old. The second was of an AHY-M Black-throated Blue Warbler which was captured on September 24. This bird carried a band which was not one of ours. To date we have not received information on when, where, or who banded this bird.

2005 marks the completion of the 8th year of the monthly bird census. To date, the census has been run every month since November 1997. The exception was January and February of 2000 when we were unable to get to the island. This monthly census route gives an excellent idea of what species can be found on the island during each part of the year. 2005 census routes produced 177 species which is the highest number we have had for one year. The total number of species observed on the island during these census routes is 225 species. This year's census added 4 species. Those were Semipalmated Sandpiper in July, Western Sandpiper in August, Long-eared Owl in March, and Connecticut Warbler in September. Other highlight observations included Northern Bobwhite in November, Glaucous Gull in February, Cerulean Warbler in May, Kentucky Warbler in May, and Clay-colored Sparrow in September. 104 species have been observed every year for 8 years. In addition to these species observed during the census routes, several other species were observed on the island during the year. In May, a rare Black-throated Gray Warbler was found and photographed on Long Point. This is one of about 6 records for the State of Ohio. Black-throated Gray Warblers are usually found west of the Mississippi River in the Rocky Mountains and the desert southwest. Our second Golden-winged Warbler was banded in May at Long Point.

The pages which follow this summary include raw data from all banding and census days. The first pages are summaries of the birds banded, birds banded by date, recapture data, monthly census data, compilation of yearly banding data and census data through 2005.

(Continued from page 4 - Spring Valley Wildlife Area M.A.P.S. ...)

Comments: The number of breeding birds at SVWA declined in 2003 & 2004 as a result the dam breaking in Feb. of 2003 and draining the open water of the marsh. Repairs were completed in early July 2004 and perhaps the breeding birds will return to normal levels in 2005. However in 2005 a management decision at ODNR District 5 intentionally lowered the lake level by approximately 0.6 meter (2 feet) on May 31st to allow for increased plant regeneration. Water levels were attempted to return to "normal or full" levels on July 28th AFTER the primary bird breeding season. This decision adversely affected most breeding birds allowing predators (snakes, raccoons, skunks, and mink) wider access to nesting birds. Also dragonflies, butterflies, and mosquitoes were greatly reduced in their numbers from past years. This may have reduced the food supply of breeding birds reducing the production of young. I would like to suggest that water levels be kept constant or "full" for the 2006 breeding bird season at SVWA so data can be collected and compared with the reduced water levels of 2003 through 2005. Also the Ohio Breeding Bird Survey begins in 2006 and it would be significant to compare 1983 to 1987 Breeding Bird Survey results with the present survey without changing variables.

Submitted by: Jill Russell,
Avian Research Education Institute

Newly licensed Master Bander Dave Russell and his wife, Jill will be leading a workshop to Tamaulipas, Mexico in March to look at neotropical migrant populations.

Precipitous declines in temperate and neotropical migrant bird populations have led to increased public concern in both the US and Mexico. With this increase in concern, has sprung awareness for the need for additional research, conservation and education regarding migrant birds. However, we have also come to realize that our past practices of unilateral bird conservation in the United States have been entirely inadequate. A successful conservation program in the US might have little or no overall success in bird population recovery if other geographical areas important in the birds' annual cycle, such as their wintering homes and migratory rest stops, are negatively impacted. A new era of understanding and cooperation has begun as researchers, citizen scientists, and government agencies are realizing that in order to protect and preserve our migrant species, representatives from all countries important in the birds' biology must work in cooperation. To this end, Miami University (Miami), the Avian Research and Education Institute (AREI) and the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (UAT) have started what is hoped to be a long-term program of cooperation to train students in conservation practices.

In 2006, a two-part workshop will be held that will consist of six days in Tamaulipas, Mexico and six days in Ohio where participants will experience joint learning about temperate and neotropical migrants. Bird monitoring techniques, such as banding and point counts, will be emphasized at the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve in Tamaulipas and at both the Miami University Bird Observatory in Oxford and Black Swamp Bird Observatory along Lake Erie in Ohio. In addition to learning important bird conservation methodologies, eight students from Miami and eight students from UAT will cross cultural and language barriers to learn about "their" birds in their neighbors' backyard. As important as technical skills are, the ability to learn from and work with others who speak different languages, have different priorities, and see the world differently from yourself is paramount if we are ever to be successful in preserving our natural heritages.

The specific goal of the workshop is to have pairs of students (one from each school) select a bird from a list of species known to winter in Tamaulipas and nest or pass through Ohio and work together in Mexico and Ohio, in various activities relating to the observation, banding, and conservation of "their" bird. This is truly a unique opportunity for students to see all aspects of a migrant bird's life. We hope this experience will not only teach the students about bird biology and conservation, but also show the short-term and long-term benefits of scientific collaboration.

This workshop is the beginning of what we hope will be a long-term collaboration between groups equally committed to exploring, protecting, and preserving our shared natural heritage. Collaborative projects are planned for the future that include stable isotope and DNA analysis along with the establishment of additional migrant bird banding stations to better understand our shared birds.

What do you get when you cross a Bird, an Automobile and a Dog? ... A Flying CarPet!

Kelleys Island, Ohio
Bird Banding – Avian Research Projects 2005
Summary of Data - H. Thomas Bartlett

2005 marks the 10th year of this bird banding/avian research project on Kelleys Island. The bird banding project began in the spring of 1996 in conjunction with the Kelleys Island Audubon Society "Nest With the Birds" program. The monthly census route was begun in November of 1997. All research activities have been sponsored by the Kelleys Island Audubon Society with additional support from The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Mrs. Helen Morse, Lee and Sandy Tkach, The Inn on Kelleys Island, The Fox Den, and Campbell Cottage. Banding activities were conducted primarily at Long Point on lands owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Mrs. Helen Morse. The owl banding was conducted at the museum's Scheele Preserve. Feeder banding was conducted at the feeders at the Inn on Kelleys Island located on the south side of the island.

In April, John Lortz of Upper Sandusky, and I attempted to band owls at the Scheele Preserve. Our single night attempt proved unsuccessful but we will probably try again in future starting earlier in the spring migration. Owls that migrate through in the fall should be coming back in the spring on their way north. (Continued on page 6)

2005 SPRING VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA M.A.P.S.

Robert G. Thobaben Jr.

This was the 13th year to operate a MAPS station at the Spring Valley Wildlife Area located on the northern border of Warren Co. and the southern border of Greene Co. The study area is 12 hectares on the perimeter of the NW portion of the Spring Valley Lake. Two banding sites are sampled with 12 nets at the southern site and 7 nets at the northern site. Both sites consist of very hydric soils surrounding the marsh that are dominated by willow, dogwood, multiflower rose and blackberry thickets. Interspersed among this shrub/scrub habitat are a few trees of cottonwood, black ash, box elder and wild black cherry. Following are the results of this years banding; 267 new birds



banded (down 11% from 13 year average), 37 Species (Up 3%), 39 Returns of 12 species, 864 net hours, 35 birds / 100 net hours, 16 Days of banding (8 days at each site from May 2nd through August 8th).

Most unusual breeding birds were an Orchard Oriole (1), Worm-eating Warbler (1), Ovenbird (3), Sandhill Cranes (2 juveniles). There was a 6 yr. 11 mo. White-eyed Vireo and 2 Northern Cardinals of 7 yrs. 0 mo. and 6 yrs. 2 mo.

The dominant species in rank order are as follows; 1) Common Yellowthroat – 42 + 6 returns 2) Gray Catbird – 42 + 2 returns, 3) Northern Cardinal -26 + 7 returns, 4) Carolina Wren -17 + 2 returns, 5) Willow Flycatcher - 14, 6) Carolina Chickadee – 11 + 4 returns, 7) White-eyed Vireo – 8 + 7 returns, 8) Indigo Bunting – 11 + 3 returns, 9) Downy Woodpecker – 10 + 3 returns, 10) Song Sparrow – 12 + 1 return, 11) Yellow-breasted Chat – 8 + 2 returns. (Continued on page 6)

The following is a summary of recent banding recoveries from RAPTOR, Inc.

Submitted by: Jeff Hays

GH-02-34 was one of the 72 Great-horned owls admitted to RAPTOR, Inc. in 2002. This was one of the many owls admitted with symptoms of West Nile that summer. This was one of only a handful that was released. It was released September 12, 2002 on Kellogg Avenue in Hamilton County, Ohio. It was found dead on September 20, 2005 about ½ mile from where it was released. The cause of death was unknown.

GH-04-16 was a Great-horned owl that was admitted on August 1, 2004 with an eye injury, probably hit by a car. It was picked up by RAPTOR volunteers Jack and Charlotte Wright and then examined by Dr. Ketring who determined that it was partially blind in one eye. The bird was live-prey-tested and was able to catch live mice while in captivity, so it was taken back to Morrow, OH and released on September 4, 2004. It was found (probably hit by another car) on August 10, 2005 and was subsequently euthanized because the 'good' eye was severely injured this time. The bird was weighed, and ironically, it weighed more the second time, after hunting with compromised eyesight, than it did upon its original admittance.

BW-04-10 was a Broad-winged hawk, picked up by the SPCA, and admitted on August 31, 2004. Upon examination, the bird was found to have torn crop. Dr. Levitas successfully performed the surgery to repair the crop. The bird was released September 28, 2004 at the Covered Bridge facility. It was found dead January 24, 2005 in Georgetown, South Carolina – approximately 505 miles from the release site. Cause of death was unknown.

BO-03-12 was a Barred owl, picked up by the SPCA, and admitted on October 10, 2003. There were no apparent injuries; however, the bird was underweight and dehydrated. The bird was fattened up and released near Sharon Woods in Hamilton County, Ohio. Unfortunately a car in Fort Thomas, Kentucky hit the bird on October 17, 2005. This is approximately 14 miles from the release site.

All three owls lived at least through one nesting season so we consider our rehab efforts to be successful. The Broad-winged Hawk only lived four months but did travel a considerable distance. When the birds we release do not live through one nesting season and the cause of death is unknown it is hard to evaluate the success or failure of the bird in the wild.

L NAME THAT BIRD 7

Match the Obsolete English names of N. American Birds to the current names.

1	Bicolored Blackbird	a	Brown-headed Cowbird
2	Cow Blackbird	b	Red-winged Blackbird
3	White-shouldered Blackbird	c	Grackle Species
4	Crow Blackbird	d	Red-Winged Blackbird
5	Swamp Blackbird	e	Lark Bunting
6	Florida Crow Blackbird	f	Common Grackle

1=b, 2=a, 3=e, 4=c, 5=d, 6=f

Why don't Ducks tell jokes while flying?They might "Quack" up.

Do You Remember...

In 1993, C. Holmes Smith banded birds around his cherry tree for four weeks in June/July and banded 162 birds representing 26 species!

In 1993, Partners In Flight held their first meeting of the steering committee where they decided that habitat types (5 types) were the agreed upon method to look at neotropical migratory bird problems.

In 1991 the 1st O.B.B.A. brochures were printed.

Also in 1991, Barn Owls became a recent edition to the Ohio Endangered Species List.

In 1991 Tom Kashmir banded 562 House Finches. Only a dozen had been banded over the previous 7 years!

Fascinating Facts

Molting Beak

All Birds molt their feathers, but only Puffins molt their beaks. Puffins shed their brightly colored, mating season beaks for a duller color that they keep the rest of the year. In other birds, the beaks are constantly growing and being worn down year-round. (The Everything Bird Book, 1998)

What's a "fizz"?

In the lexicon of birders, "fizz" is a homophone for the acronym for GISS (General Impression of Size & Shape). GISS is thought to date from World War II, when it was used for aircraft identification. It is now referred to when discussing descriptions of birds (Birding, 29(2), 1997)

