

Bird Banding Accomplishments 2015

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Abstract

Through the cooperative efforts of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologists within the Bureaus of Wildlife Management, Natural Heritage Conservation, and Science Services, a total of 11,021 birds were banded in Wisconsin in 2015 under the DNR Master Permit. Fifteen species of migratory birds, including ducks, geese, loons, bald eagles, woodcock, mourning doves, and terns were banded at more than 150 sites across the state.

Background

For over 55 years the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has organized extensive bird banding operations on state, federal, and private property at many locations across the state. Wildlife biologists and technicians within the bureaus of Wildlife Management, Natural Heritage Conservation, and Science Services cooperate to band birds to meet specific research needs and to meet banding quotas assigned by the Mississippi Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Methods

Wild birds were captured using a variety of techniques including night-lighting, bait-trapping, drive trapping, mist-netting, and cannon-netting. Once the age and sex of the captured birds were determined, they were fitted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg bands. The band numbers, age, and sex of these birds along with date and banding location were recorded on field data sheets. Specially prepared banding schedules were submitted to the U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland for permanent storage. Permanent banding records were also stored at the DNR Science Operations Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Results

A total of 11,021 birds of 15 species were banded in 2015 at more than 150 locations in Wisconsin. For waterfowl, 4,374 resident Canada geese were banded at more than 59 sites, 3,804 mallard ducks were banded at 16 sites, and 1,306 wood ducks were banded at 14 sites (Table 1). With close to normal temperatures and precipitation during the spring, the 2015 banding season was more successful than the 2014 banding season. In addition, 36 loons were banded at 5 sites, 72 woodcock were banded at 10 sites, 508 common terns were banded at 4 sites, 818 mourning doves were banded at 26 sites, and 60 eagles were banded at 22 sites (Table 1).

Table 1. Banding Summary for 2015.

Age and Sex

Species	Adult			Hatch Year			Local			Misc.*	Total
	F	M	U	F	M	U	F	M	U		
American Black Duck		6			1						7
American Wigeon					1						1
American Woodcock	1	30							41		72
Bald Eagle									60		60
Blue-winged Teal				2	5						7
Canada Goose	412	426					1,743	1,793			4,374
Common Loon	11	14	2						9		36
Common Tern			55						453		508
Green-winged Teal	1	2		1							4
Long-tailed Duck	7	9									16
Mallard	497	302		1,464	1,387		74	80			3,804
Mourning Dove	59	197	62		6	487				7	818
Northern Pintail		2		4							6
White-winged Scoter	1			1							2
Wood Duck	128	639		276	263						1,306
TOTAL	1,117	1,627	119	1,748	1,663	487	1,817	1,873	563	7	11,021

*Misc. includes unknown age and sex.