

a subadult is a bird that was hatched in the calendar year prior to the year of banding, and which has not acquired full breeding plumage.

All measurements are in millimeters. The length of the wing is a chord measurement. All weights are in grams. Unless otherwise indicated measurements noted are from original data by the author.

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NE-49 PROJECT
By Philip Granett

NE-49 is the symbol used to designate a recently approved regional project entitled "The Control of Bird Depredation." This project, sponsored by the State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the Northeastern area, is a cooperative endeavor to find effective, reasonable ways of reducing or eliminating the damage some birds cause to cultivated crops.

The long search for remedies to the age old problem of crop damage from birds makes it obvious that a quick simple solution is unlikely. The objectives of the NE-49 project are to acquire a fundamental knowledge of birds including bird ecology, behavior and physiology, to improve methods of assessing damage and to devise ways to protect such crops as corn, other grains and fruit. Procedures to protect crops include a search for acceptable ways of reducing bird populations, investigations of plant cultural practices and cropping systems, and biological, chemical or mechanical means of diverting birds. Blackbirds such as red-winged blackbirds, grackles, starlings and cow-birds will be considered particularly because they do most of the damage in this region; other species such as robins, orioles, or blue jays may be studied, too, because of the damage they may cause to fruit.

Of the 12 agricultural experiment stations in the northeast area, seven, those in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, will be actively engaged in achieving these objectives. In addition, because it has a strong interest and background in these problems, the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station will be an active contributor. Further, individual investigators in the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife located in Massachusetts, Delaware and Maryland have attended organization meetings and have indicated they will contribute to the project efforts.

Each of the states or agencies have selected areas of research in which they can make the most significant contributions. We hope to get cooperation not only from the research people but from anyone who they contact or who might have an interest in birds. What we need to learn also is how best to get the cooperation of the birds and their environment.

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