
Annual Summary of Birds Banded in 2015 in the WBBA Area

After compiling these annual summaries for a decade now, I have switched methodology. Whereas I used to “spam” Master Banders for their annual banding totals, I simply ask the BBL for these records. After managing the learning curve of this new method, the results are impressive. In past years, there were ~175 reporting banders. That number has risen to just under 400. We used to get ~175,000 birds reported as banded; that number has risen to just under 300,000 birds banded.

The total number of taxa reported (species, subspecies, race) has jumped. A good portion of this is the banders south of the border. Another area where we have had new birds is the “Hawaii” area, where we now include a number of Pacific Islands (Johnston Atoll, Kure, Midway, Saipan) as well as Hawaii based banders reaching further out into the Pacific Ocean.

All of these lofty numbers has come with a price. I had to dispense with probably one of the best parts of the annual summary, the leading banders for each species. With close to 400 banders and 300,000 birds, the task of finding the top banders for each species became onerous. However, if you banded large numbers of particular species and would like to know how you

stand, feel free to ask where your totals stand. As my time permits, I will work on this.

The larger number of banders and birds now makes publishing this on NABB difficult, so it will be posted on the WBBA website. This will also allow me to make changes more easily.

The one error in judgement I made was to ask the BBL for this data toward the beginning of the year, so I suspect some of you had not submitted your data yet. I requested this data early in the year, not knowing how much work this would be. Having done this once now and finding the task not as difficult as anticipated, I will now wait until close to mid-year to make my request to the BBL.

If you submitted your data late and do not find your banding data, I will enter your numbers. The updated summary will be posted on the WBBA website. If you wish to network with other banders of your “species,” let me know and I can get this information to you.

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