
News, Notes, Comments

Capture and Banding of a Brambling in Northwest Montana

An early, major winter storm brought the first snow of the season on October 23, 1991. Snow was followed by temperatures of -8° and -2° F and more snow a week later. On Saturday, Oct. 26, a Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) appeared with a flock of 60-80 juncos. At first it fed on the ground and blended in with cottonwood leaves; soon it was in the banding trap on a table under a fir tree. The AHY male was marked with band #1670-77649.

The head and back were covered with black feathers edged with orange and tan. The head was unevenly mottled with more black showing on the crown and one side. The other side of its head and its breast and shoulders were deep orange. The wings were black with a small white wing bar over a wider black area and an orange wing bar. The rump was white and stood out in flight. The tail was black and notched and the belly was light with thin, short, black lines along its flanks. The beak was light colored with a small hook at the tip. The bird was shy and had a distinct chirp.

The bird could have arrived earlier in the week while I was at work. It stayed 4 days after banding.

Other recent Brambling bandings reported in Western Bird Banding Association Annual Reports include one by D.S. Farner in 1984 in Seattle WA and three by Ralph B. Williams in Juneau AK in 1985, 1986, and 1989. Sight records for Montana include Swan Lake, 1978 and Kalispell, 1990. Recent records from other states and provinces reported in *American Birds* include: California (4), Oregon (3), Washington (7), British Columbia (9), Alaska (19) and Ontario (2).

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An Appeal for Line Drawings, Sketches, and Black and White Photographs for *NABB*

If you would like your sketch, line drawing, or photograph to appear in an upcoming issue of *NABB* please send them to:

Robert Pantle, Production Manager
North American Bird Bander
35 Logan Hill Road
Candor, New York 13743

I would like to thank regular contributor **Josh Bortz** of Allentown, Pennsylvania, for the many fine drawings he has contributed. Below is his drawing of a Northern Waterthrush, on the previous page, a Merlin, and a Peregrine in a stoop on page 128.

I would also like to thank **Jennifer (Mease) Tucci** for the excellent photograph of a Bald Eagle which appears on the front cover of this issue. She sends this to us from Ketchikan, Alaska.

