

scientific, controlled approach is most prudent. With precious little time left to save the declining bird numbers nearly every banding effort nationwide is reporting, there is an urgent need for specific, concrete information on where birds are breeding, how many are surviving, where birds are wintering, and how they are getting there.

But as technology becomes increasingly complex and the reporting standards get ever tighter, spare a thought for the old timers, who learned what they know from thousands of volunteer hours spent in the field, tending nets and hand recording data.



Christine Philip  
4946 Douglas Rd. #102  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

For more information on bird banding in Illinois, contact the following stations.

Guided tours are available at some of these stations.

Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station, Rockford,  
Lee Johnson 815-965-3433

Chicagoland Bird Observatory, Brookfield,  
Dennis DeCoursey 708-387-9265

Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Dundee,  
Bob Montgomery 708-428-6331

For other information on bird banding, contact:

*The Inland Bird Banding Association; Peter Lowther, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496.*

*Applications for membership may be sent to the treasurer, Tom Barilett, 3443 East County Rd., #36, Tiffin, OH 48883. Members receive The North American Bird Bander, a journal of the Eastern, Inland, and Western Bird Banding Associations.*

## "Game bird banding is well-documented"

Much of the banding done nationwide focuses on game birds in order to help state and federal authorities determine hunting limits on migratory waterfowl and for refuge management purposes. This banding is detailed and well-documented, said Bob Montgomery, senior staff biologist at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation near Dundee in McHenry County.

The privately funded wildlife organization employs bird banding for several long-term research projects on Wood Ducks (27 years) and Mourning Doves (26 years). Much work is also being done on Canada Geese, including a project last year that monitored brood amalgamation among Canada Geese. Scientists placed wing tags on goslings in the nest and charted the combination of broods by adult Canada Geese.

As a result of waterfowl banding, a clearer picture on Canada Geese populations that breed and winter in Illinois is emerging. For instance, banding work has shown that the population using the Mississippi Flyway is largely discrete, with little intermingling with other groups. Migrant Canada Geese wintering in southern Illinois breed along the western shores of James and Hudson bays and in Manitoba and Ontario. The familiar colored neck bands seen on hundreds of Canada Geese in Illinois are testimony to the intense banding efforts used to monitor the goose population.

Nationwide, 30 percent of all birds banded and 70 percent of all those recovered are game birds such as Canada Geese, according to Danny Bystrak of the Office of Migratory Bird Management in Laurel, Maryland. "It seems hunters are returning the bands of game birds killed with some regularity," he said.