

Berardi submits hawk watch data from both sites to the Hawk Migration Association of North America. While Berardi insists none of his data will have real validity until there is a 10-year record, he has been able to make some observations and adjustments to technique after just two seasons. For example, the count was conducted quite close to Lake Michigan in 2000 at Concordia College, and counters suspected that they were missing many fly-bys. The count site was moved slightly westward and counters discovered many more Merlins and Sharp-shinned Hawks flying just inland. The Merlin count in 2000 was 83. The Merlin count in 2001 rose to 195 individuals with just a slight shift in the position of the counters.

"The thing that's very significant about hawk watches on the western shore of Lake Michigan is that we see more Peregrines and Merlins than they do at Hawk Ridge, more than most sites away from the East Coast," Berardi said. Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania counts more kestrels than IBSP or Concordia does, but no other inland site has as many large falcons, according to the first two years of data.

The IBSP hawk watch is conducted from about 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m., depending on day light and the day's flight. Despite staffing crunches here and there, Berardi said hawks were counted every single day at IBSP last fall except Sept. 11 and Illinois Beach State Park naturalist Bill Wengelewski was counting that fateful morning, until he was called back into his office for security reasons.

"The thing about hawk watching is the challenge," said Berardi. "We have a fun time trying to call birds that are really, really far out there. We were watching what we thought was an Osprey for the longest time. Paul Sweet kept insisting it was an Osprey and I agreed as it gradually came nearer. We watched and watched until finally Paul said, 'Well, your Osprey just turned into an immature Bald Eagle' as it flew over our heads. You just never know what's coming. You never know what's going to happen."

For more on the hawk watch at Illinois Beach State Park, see *Meadowlark* 11:56-58.

Renaissance Bird Conservationist Cuts a Deal With the Navy

It's possible to take a good thing to extremes and still do good work. That's exactly what Donald Dann has done. He retired five and a half years ago from a very successful family insurance company to concentrate on conservation, particularly, bird conservation. Dann serves on the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy in Illinois, chairing several committees. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of The American Bird Conservancy, serves as the treasurer of this national organization and is active in its campaign to reduce bird predation by domestic cats. He is a member of the Birder's Exchange Advisory Board for Manomet Center for Envi-

ronmental Studies. He is a Director of Chicago Audubon Society, serves as an advisor on environmental committees for Congressman Mark Kirk and State Representative Karen May, and is vice president and a founding light of Illinois' Bird Conservation Network. Educating children also is a priority for Dann and he is a volunteer naturalist at Ryerson Conservation Area in Lake County, where he teaches vast numbers of school children who visit the nature center and woods along the Des Plaines River.

While Dann admits to spending as much time in boardrooms as a volunteer as he did as a businessman, "only now I do it for psychic pay," he does not spend all of his time indoors. Dann is a bird monitor on several breeding bird survey routes in northwest Indiana and north central Illinois. He conducts breeding bird censuses at two sites in Lake County and one habitat analysis site for the BCN, and has been a marsh monitor at the Des Plaines River Wadsworth Wetlands Demonstration Project.

But the one project of many that really lights up Dann from within is his shorebird survey work for Manomet Bird Observatory. The shorebird survey is conducted all over the U.S. from 1 April to 10 June and from 1 July to 31 October. Sites are surveyed at least every 10 days. Dann had been monitoring the U.S. Post Office Ponds near O'Hare Airport until high water and hydrology problems deterred shorebirds from using the site.

But a new shore birding site has completely captured Dann's attention: Great Lakes Naval Air Base in Lake County. With American Avocets, Curlew Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, and summering Arctic Terns, the attraction is hardly surprising. Dann is focusing his atten-



Donald Dann has started a new "volunteer" career in birds and conservation. Here he holds an immature Common Tern at Great Lakes Naval Training Base where he volunteers to help protect the habitat for this state-endangered species.