

U.S Forest Service, Northern Research Station

Kelly van Frankenhuyzen: Social media intern with U.S Forest Service Northern Research Station narrates the story

Barbara McGuinness: Environmental Literacy Coordinator for Northern Research Station

Scott Stoleson: Research Wildlife Biologist for Northern Research Station in Irvine, Pennsylvania

Ruth Lundin: President of Audubon Community Nature Center in Jamestown, New York

Audio: Birds chirping.

Narrator: I'm Kelly van Frankenhuyzen with the U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station. A Northern Research scientist teamed up with the Audubon Community Nature Center in Jamestown, New York for the public to band birds in the spring. Northern Research Station Environmental Literacy Coordinator Barbara McGuinness went into the field to talk to research wildlife biologist Scott Stoleson about how bird banding benefits research, and she also talked to Ruth Lundin, president of the Audubon Community Nature Center.

Barbara McGuinness: If you could just tell me your name, job title and where you work, please.

Scott Stoleson: I'm Scott Stoleson. I'm a research wildlife biologist with the Northern Research Station lab in Irvine, Pennsylvania.

Barbara McGuinness: Okay, super! Could you just tell me a little bit about what you're doing here today?

Scott Stoleson: Sure. This is a bird banding demonstration program we started probably 10 years ago now, where we work with the Jamestown Audubon Society and catch and band birds partly for education for the public and also partly to compare with a similar program they had back in the '60s and '70s.

Barbara McGuinness: What do you think is the value of these public bird banding sessions?

Scott Stoleson: All sorts of educational purposes. People learn stuff about birds, we try to give them trivia about the species we catch and where they go provides some sense of connectivity. When we start getting neotropical migrants tell them this particular warbler winters in Columbia, it gives them a sense of just how artificial country lines are, at least to birds. It's also really good for kids. We get a lot of kids here, various Audubon programs. And then people just coming in with kids and a lot of them really get into it a lot, and get kind of captivated, especially when they release the birds out of their hands and I think that really makes a difference in how much they appreciate about understanding what's around them and appreciate the value of wildlife and things.

Bird audio

Barbara McGuinness: Can you tell me your name, title and where you're from, please.

Ruth Lundin: Ruth Lundin, I am the President of Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, New York.

Barbara McGuinness: Thank you! Can you just tell me a little bit about the partnerships that Audubon has with the Forest Service and what the benefits are to Audubon for working with the Forest Service, please.

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Ruth Lundin: The major partnership that we have is to do bird banding. We do both the spring migration bird banding and the breeding bird banding here at the Nature Center. We have a tradition of doing bird banding back in the 70s but then it was discontinued for many years because we didn't have anyone licensed to do it. We are just thrilled to be able to offer it, the chance for people to see our native species, birds, right up close, sometimes even in their own hands is magical.

Barbara McGuinness: Wonderful!

Ruth Lundin: It's also so important for them to see the research that is done and to understand why we study and find out which birds are coming through and band them to see where they have been seen before, where they have traveled before. It's wonderful for us, we welcome so many of the birds now that have been banded so it's like "Welcome home." This is a project we could not have done without the Forest Service support because of the licensing and the oversight. We see about 30,000 people a year at the Audubon Community Nature Center. For people to see research on the ground, active on our property, in their home area, I think is very important; to start thinking about what we do know and what we don't know about our very familiar bird species. And, the Forest Service people are so open and so helpful and wanting to share their knowledge and their expertise but also their passion for what they do.

Narrator: Special thanks to Dr. Robert Howe from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay for sharing the audio recording of the bird sounds.

For more information, visit the Northern Research Station home page at www.nrs.fs.fed.us

Audio fades out: birds chirping.