



2020 Eagle Hill Natural History Science Seminars . . .
. . . on the coast of eastern Maine

BANDING SONGBIRDS AND RAPTORS: LIVETRAPPING, IN-HAND AGING AND SEXING, AND DATA COLLECTION

Adrienne Jo Leppold and David Brinker

August 16 - 22, 2020

More than 300 species of birds occur in Maine at some point in their life cycle. Maine is a nexus of activity for both breeding birds and migrant individuals. This course has been scheduled to overlap the transition period from the breeding season into fall migration. While this course will help the amateur birder take their interest in birds to the next level, it is especially ideal for professional or aspiring biologists and students looking to gain experience with the handling and banding skills necessary for many research and monitoring projects. Through a mix of classroom presentations, specimen study, and field mist-netting, participants will learn the operation of mist nets and safe extraction of birds, specific trapping techniques used for raptors, handling skills for a suite of species, in-hand aging and sexing techniques, and data collection procedures. Participants will have the unique opportunity to get up close and personal with birds. In addition to meeting course objectives, this hands-on approach will improve species identification skills and stimulate the learning of avian life habits. Field work will be supplemented by lectures and discussions covering the history and ethics of bird banding, avian life histories, energetics, molts and plumages, raptor flight ID, and emerging tracking technologies. Come take advantage of this intensive opportunity to learn new or hone existing bird handling and research skills.



about the instructors

Adrienne Jo Leppold (adrienne.j.leppold@maine.gov) is the state songbird specialist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. She has her Ph.D. from the University of Maine, completing her dissertation on landbird migration throughout the Gulf of Maine. Her work has made groundbreaking strides in understanding the movement of landbirds through the region and led to the creation of an international, multi-agency initiative to study bird migration in the Gulf of Maine region. She is certified as a trainer by the North American Banding Council and has co-authored manuals used by banding stations throughout North America and recommended by the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory.

David Brinker (dfbrinker@verizon.net) is an ecologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Program where he has worked on biodiversity conservation since 1989. He is the founder of Project OwlNet and co-founder of Project SNOWstorm, two highly successful cooperative efforts to study migrating and wintering owls using bird banding and radio telemetry. Since 1994, he has led the Central Appalachian Goshawk Study in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. He has authored or co-authored papers on Northern Goshawk population change, Red-tailed Hawk migration, Northern Saw-whet ecology and movement, American Oystercatcher distribution, as well as on secretive marsh birds and colonial nesting waterbirds.