

Developing a Partnership to Conserve American Kestrels: The Perspective from the Bird Banding Laboratory

Bruce Peterjohn
USGS Bird Banding Laboratory
Laurel, MD

USGS Bird Banding Laboratory

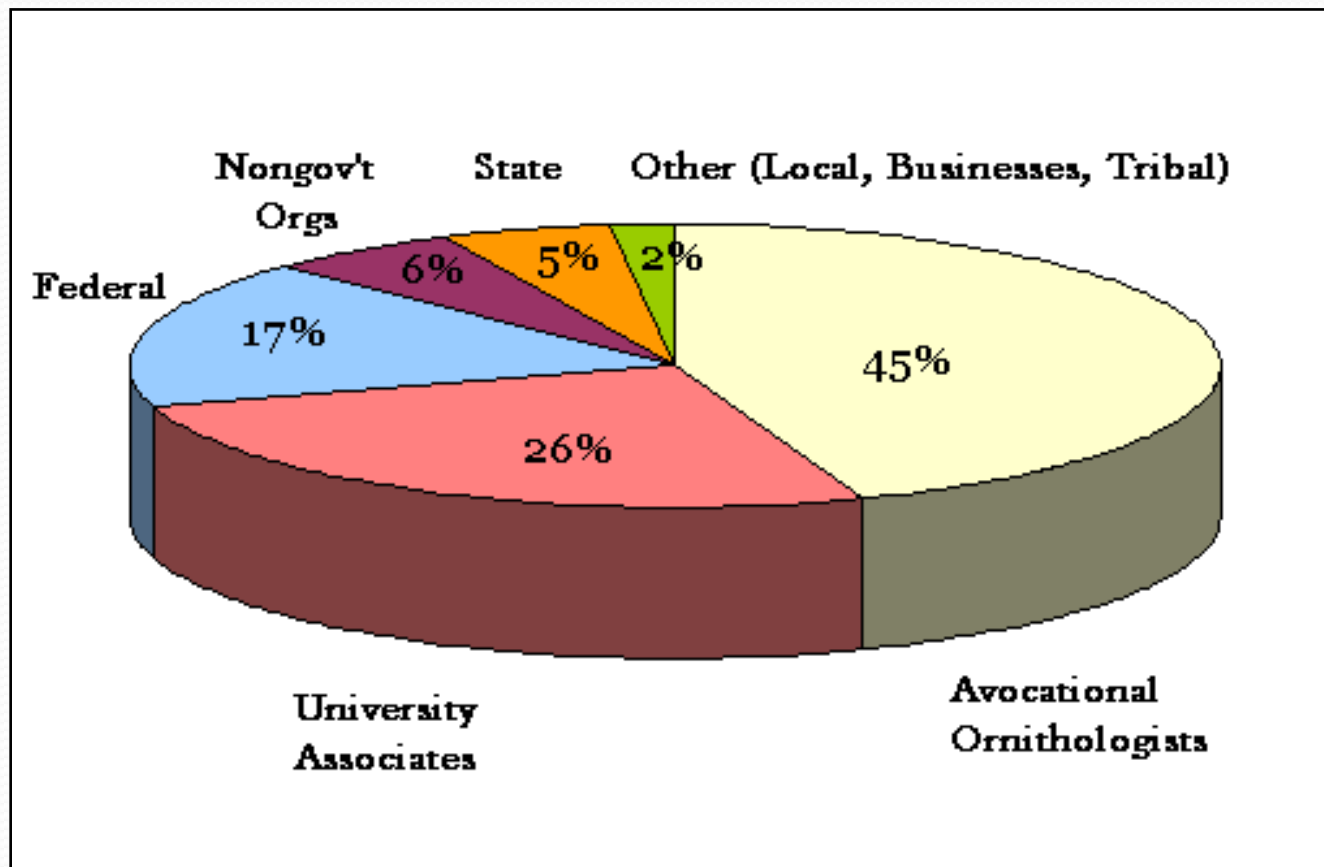
- BBL created in 1920
- Partnership with Canadian Bird Banding Office
- Responsibilities:
 - Issue permits for banding and/or marking birds in US
 - Manages banding and band encounter data from US and Canada
 - Provides metal bands for use in US and Canada



Affiliations of Bird Banders

US Master permits: 1570

US sub-permits: 5800+



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- **Banding data records:**
 - Apr. 70 million since 1960
 - 1+ million new annually
- **Band encounter records:**
 - Apr. 5 million (all records)
 - 90,000 new annually
- **Accepting recapture records**

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THE NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDING PROGRAM

BIRD BANDING LABORATORY

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Bird banding is a universal and indispensable technique for studying the movement, survival and behavior of birds. The North American Bird Banding Program is jointly administered by the [United States Geological Survey](#) and the [Canadian Wildlife Service](#). Their respective banding offices have similar functions and policies and use the same bands, reporting forms and data formats. Joint coordination of the program dates back to 1923.

[Bird Banding Laboratory Banding Station](#)

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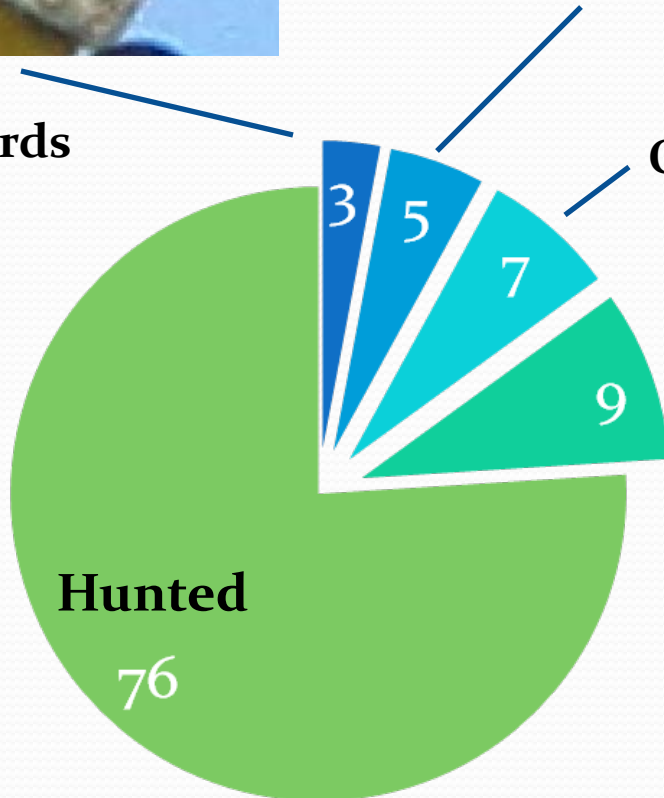
How banded birds are encountered



Live sightings of birds



Found dead or injured



Other

Recaptured in banding operations



Photo by Ed Grimes

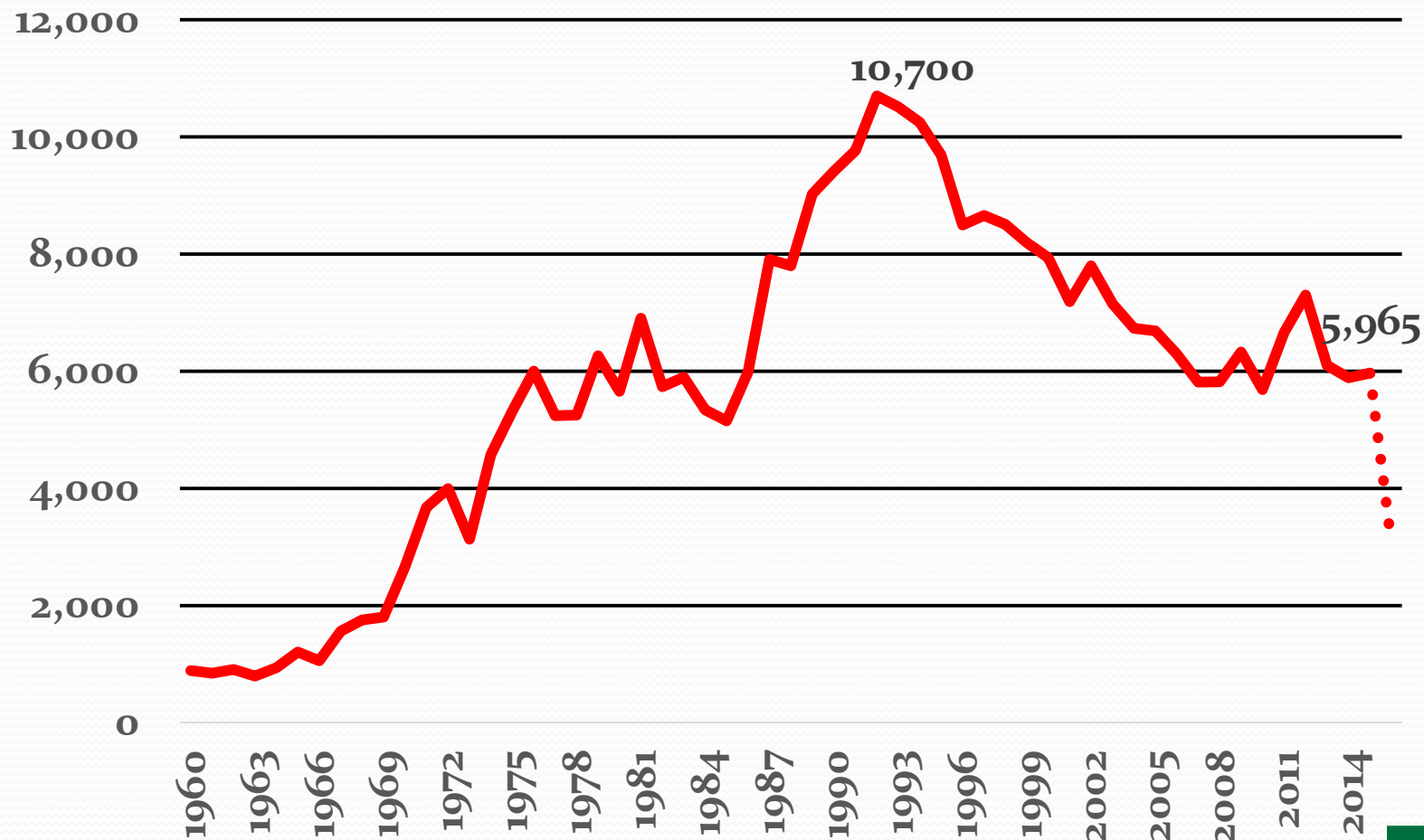
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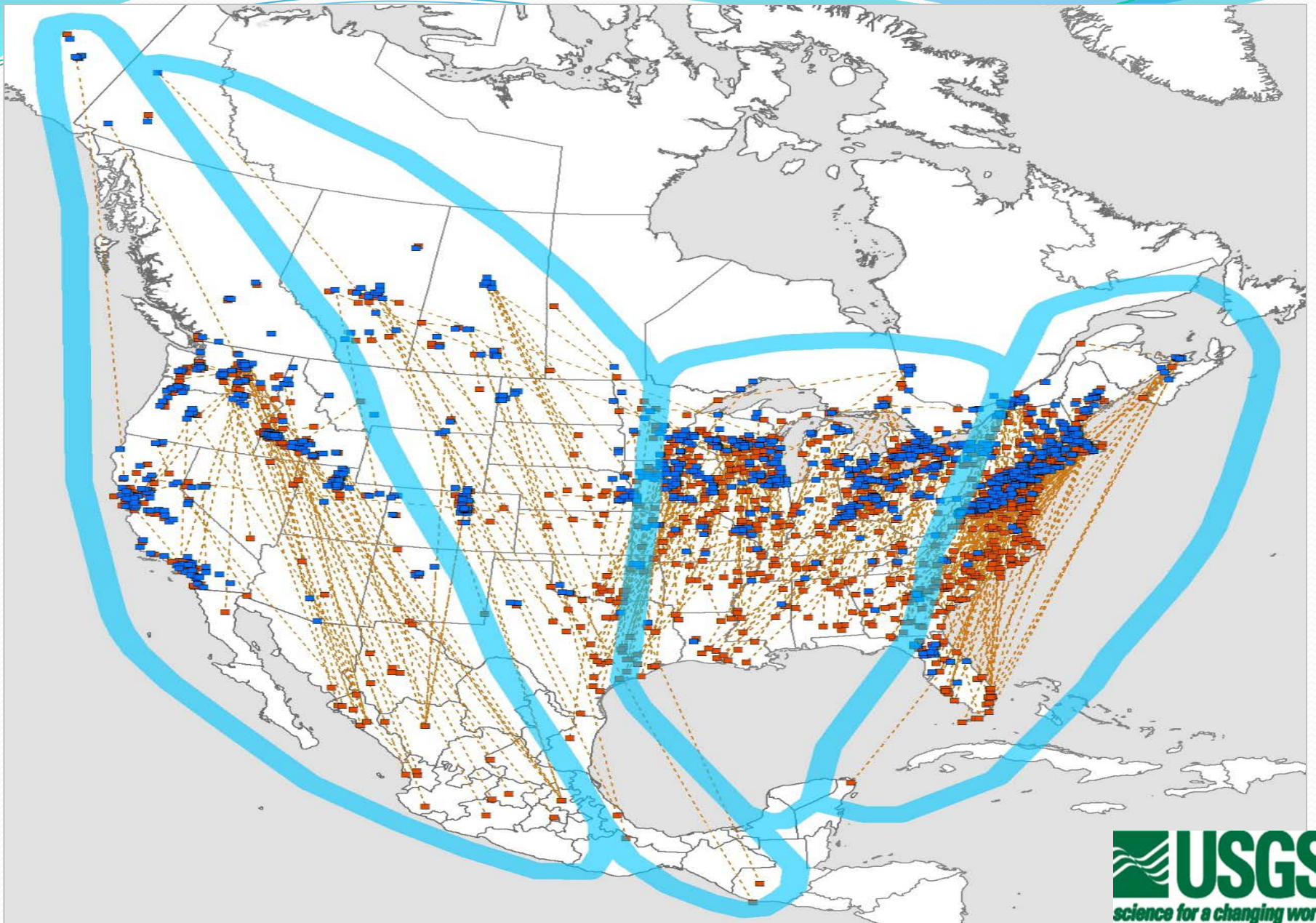
- **Reduced Resources:**
 - Staff reduced by 33%
 - Budget decreases
- **Size of program remains stable**
- **Must support ongoing banding efforts**
 - Management of migratory game birds
 - MAPS, owlnet
- **Support new initiatives**
 - American Kestrels



American Kestrel bandings by year (1960-2016)

325,000 records

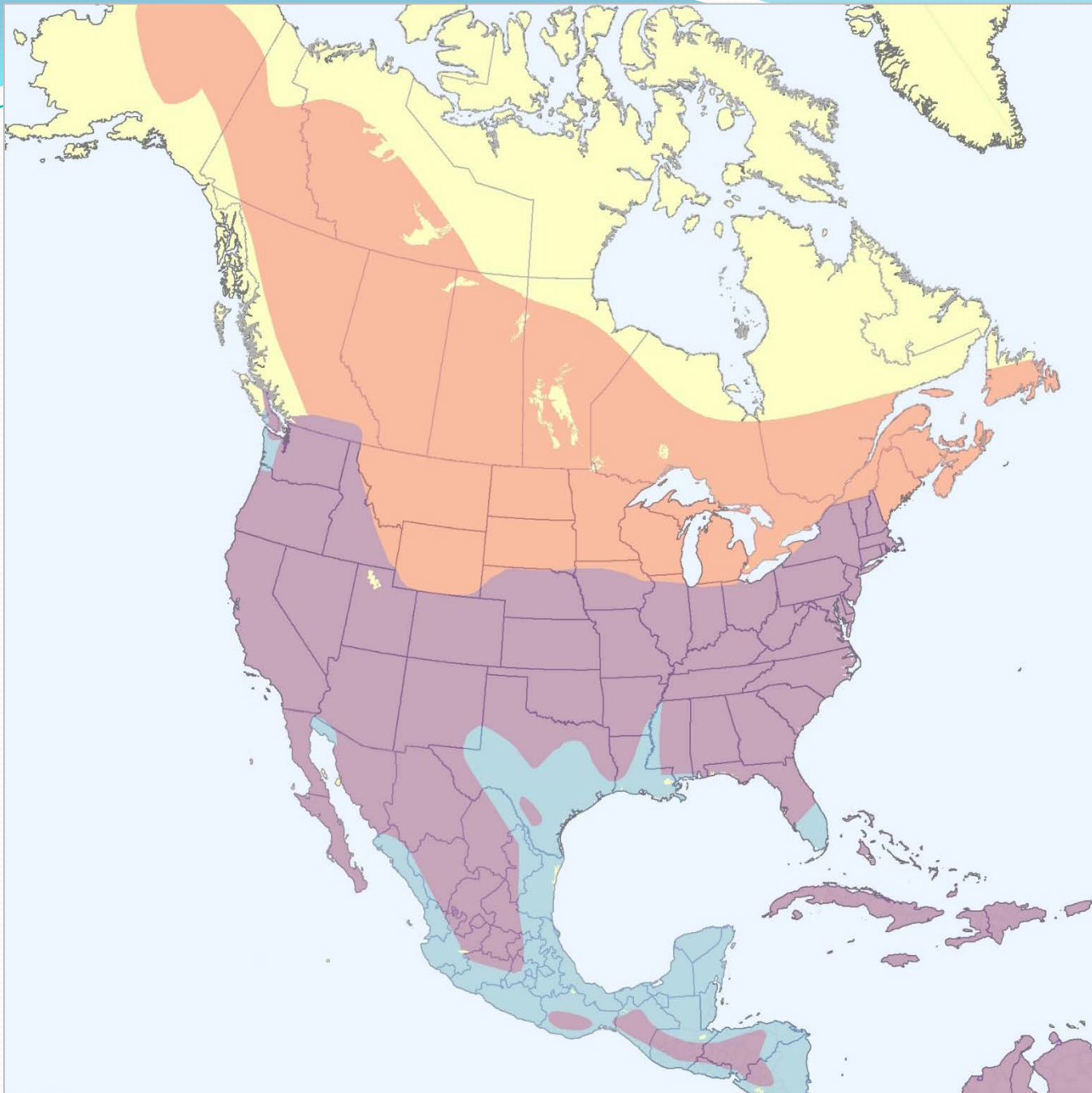




BBL DATA

- Emphasis shift from tracking movements to demographic studies
 - Other technologies are more efficient at defining movements
- Study design is important consideration for demographic studies
 - Resighting protocols
 - Geographic scale of results





American Kestrel range map

The American Kestrel Partnership

- Use existing BBL data resources
 - Explore and analyze existing band and band encounter records
 - BBL welcomes collaboration to produce analyses
 - Identify strengths, weaknesses
 - Recommend improvements
 - Enlist existing banders into program
 - BBL needs to determine who is truly cooperating in this program



The American Kestrel Partnership

- Banding/marketing should fit into a science-based conservation strategy
 - Should address factors responsible for declines
 - Resident vs. migratory populations
 - Should define the scientific priorities for future activities
 - Support required from the BBL and other programs should be identified
 - Should establish a clear linkage with conservation and/or management objectives



American Kestrel Partnership



- Develop Full Annual Cycle Models for kestrel populations
 - Resident vs. migratory populations
 - Need to produce estimates of demographic metrics
 - Nest productivity, seasonal survival estimates for adults and young
- Integrated Population Models
 - Integrating demographic data, survey data (BBS, migration, winter), and habitat data to inform conservation and management decisions