

1979

Eastern Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

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Eastern Regional News is published quarterly in *North American Bird Bander* by the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Applications for membership and changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer. The dues: Active Members — \$8.00 per year; Sustaining Members — \$16.00 per year; Student Members — \$6.00 per year; Life Membership — \$200.00. Non-subscribing Members — \$3.00 per year. Canadian and foreign memberships add \$2.00. Contributions to the Eastern Bird Banding Association are tax deductible.

President's message

Special thanks to our first vice-president, Valerie Freer, and her assistant, Barbara Belanger, for their efforts and work they put forth making our annual meeting at Dingman's Ferry a great success. In addition, there were many people contributing by running a workshop and/or giving a paper. These annual meetings are based on a response from the membership. The larger the response, the more successful our annual meeting becomes. The two things that tend to cement our banding association together are the annual meeting and our journal, NABB.

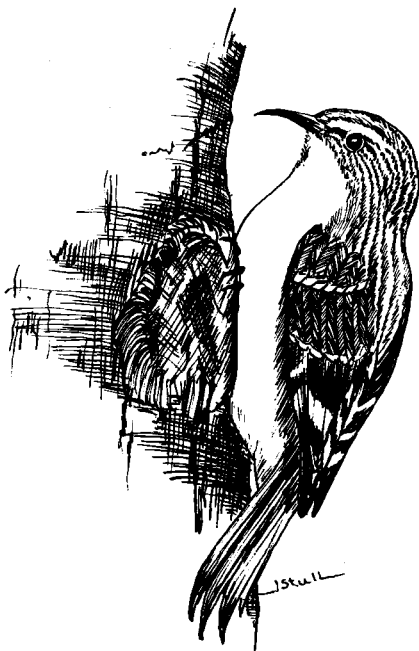
Along with annual meetings, another type of response is necessary. Your response to our editor's appeal for papers to publish in NABB. Our journal has a wide appeal; that is, it has a variety of banding topics — from backyard banding notes to a full-fledged banding study. The annual meeting at the Pocono Environmental Education Center this year certainly pointed up the many areas of research a bander should be getting into.

I always feel a little guilty after an annual meeting, in that I become aware of the scientific inquiry associated with bird banding and what I should be doing to contribute.

Certainly every bird bander has data that need analyzing. Furthermore, a favorite trap, a net set, etc. should be written up in the form of an article and sent to our editor. Just now Mickie tells me there is a need for articles of intermediate length.

Perhaps your article needs some constructive criticism. Simply write to one of the people on our advisory and review board for help. When you have put your article in final form, remember to check on the back of the front cover of NABB under "Suggestions to Authors" to be sure you have conformed to what the editor must have to publish. This will cut down on unnecessary correspondence and speed publication. Remember, our journal has come far because the membership has responded favorably to its needs.

Robert Pantle



EBBA Research Grants

The Eastern Bird Banding Association is sponsoring two \$250 Memorial Grants in aid of research using bird banding techniques or bird banding data. Applicants should submit a resume of their ornithological or banding background, the project plan, and a budget to the Chairman, EBBA Memorial Grant Committee: Robert C. Leberman, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677. The deadline for receipt of applications is 15 March 1980.

Selections at the Photograph Show

Canada Geese—Fred Hartman, PA

Crossbills—Carl Swafford, TN

Barred Owl—Valerie Freer, NY

Vulture—?

Would the person who submitted the photo of the vulture in flight please identify yourself? Contact EBBA Editor.

All the submissions were great. The selection was made by a panel for sharpness in contrast and diversity. Watch for these pictures on coming NABB covers.

Tales from Kiptopeke

Station graffiti

Tale teller:
Walter P. Smith

When we awaken to the day ahead
We rarely dream what lies in store, instead
We turn to yesterdays and weigh the thought
Of all the consequences that they brought.
Each memory inscribing its own part
Upon the crowded tablet of our heart.

The Boo-Boo:

There are two cardinal sins that sometimes occur during the operation of our Station:

The first happens when you, as a lane-runner, walk up to a netted bird, open the pocket blithely, and watch in dismay as its occupant arises and flits quickly past your fingers, thumbing its nose at you on the way to freedom. The usual reaction is to stand there, helplessly, wondering, "How in the world did that happen?"

The second sin is also committed by the lane-runner, returning triumphantly from a round of the nets, bedizened with full bags at his waist. In the process of transferring these jewels from the collecting bag to a holding cage, the gently, but carelessly, held captive suddenly wriggles free from his hand. He glances guiltily around, hoping no one has noticed. Invariably, the sharp-eyed Bander-In-Charge has witnessed the incident with jaundiced eye and, especially on days when birds are hard to come by, immediately slaps five demerits on him. The BIC also reminds him that he can accumulate only ten demerits for the day and, should the ten be exceeded, he is limited to only **one** snort at the Happy Hour.

By a strange coincidence, there is a remarkably similar incident that occasionally happens to the BIC, but with startlingly different results. The busy, hard-working BIC, pressed as always by his banding responsibilities, reaches carelessly into the holding cage for the next bandee, only to feel it slither past his hand and under his outstretched arm to freedom. He merely shrugs his shoulders and remarks — to no one in particular — "Hm-m! That must have been a redstart — and we have already banded more of those than we need!"

Mike's Little Old Ladies:

One of the tremendous things that has come out of Kiptopeke has been the warm response of people

from far and near to our plea for help in manning the Station. But with this, the banders have become very much aware of the fact that, with volunteer help, you "take what you get."

There are many of those beautiful people who are truly interested in our Station goals, learn quickly, work diligently and with pleasure, and without whom we could not operate the Station successfully. Then there are some at the opposite end of the spectrum, who may have come solely "to add to their Life List," or perhaps as an escape from some of Life's drudgeries — but never for a selfless reason. And there are those somewhere between the extremes, about whom — when you really think about it — one wonders why they ever came at all.

Mike tells the story of the day he was descended upon by several "little-old-lady" types. Dorothy had patiently indoctrinated them on Station "do's and don't's," and suggested ways in which they might help, but two of them preferred to remain in the Banding Area to chat with Mike. It was a comparatively busy day and soon, with their constant chatter, he was having difficulty in maintaining any degree of concentration on his banding. In desperation, Mike finally suggested that they go down and check the South Forty for birds.

So, off they went. Within 15 minutes of their departure, one of them hurried back, breathlessly exclaiming, "Mike, dear! You must come immediately." To Mike's inquiry concerning the sudden crisis she replied sweetly, "Well, we did just what you said, and when we got to the Southern Forty, there were two precious little birds in one of the nets. We discussed the situation most thoroughly between us and concluded it would be wise for us to secure them firmly until you could come and help get them loose." There was nothing else, of course, for Mike to do but to acquiesce to her demands.

When he arrived on the scene, he had to bite his tongue. They had woven pine twigs completely around the birds "to firmly secure them." Anyone who has ever removed pine twigs from a net knows how they cling almost as if they had claws, and will understand why it was a half-hour later before Mike could resume his duties. Dorothy said later that he was completely frustrated from trying to explain to his helpers why, if they found any more birds they should not "secure them firmly!"

Bird Ringing. Chris Mead, 1974. BTO Guide #16, 68 pgs. \$2.00 (sent surface mail).

This guide is aimed at the birdwatcher who is not a bird bander but may be very interested to know more about this special activity, its objects, its methods, and certain of its results. And in some cases he might be inclined to help.

It's an excellent introduction since there are brief descriptions of record keeping, different kinds of rings (bands), trapping, and some of the problems that are encountered.

I found the 30 or more maps most interesting, and they show the reader what can be learned: a) the difference in migration and movements between species and within species with respect to their age, sex, time of banding and the local population; b) population dynamics, etc.

In Britain there are about 1,300 trained "ringers" serviced by a total of six full time and four part-time Ringing Office Staff!! It is said this small staff is barely sufficient to maintain the national ringing scheme at its present level. In recent years about a half a million birds have been marked annually, resulting in 10,000 and 15,000 recoveries each year.

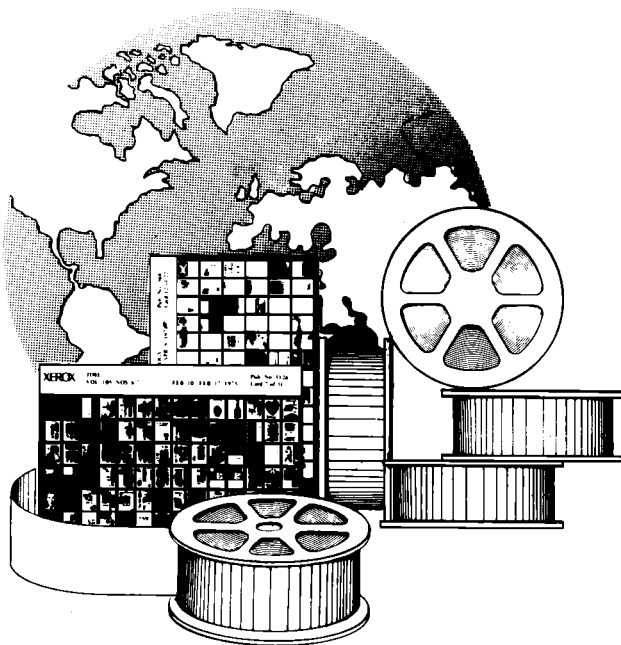
For the bander who would like to know about banding in the British Isles, how it was started, how far they have come to date, I suggest this guide. For an "insight" into what other countries are doing along these lines I suggest this guide to the banders in this country and Canada.

Order from: British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire, England.

Mrs. Roger W. Foy

This Publication is Available in MICROFORM

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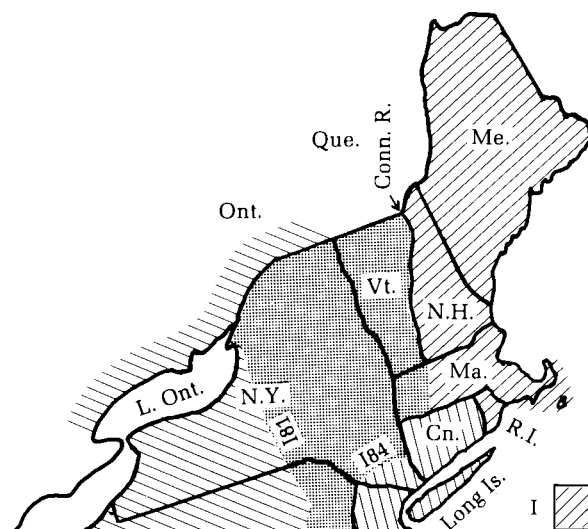
18 Bedford Row
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England

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

Richard L. Ferren, Coordinator
Berkshire Community College
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

For the fall of 1978, all regular reporting stations submitted reports and a new station at Brier Island, Nova Scotia is welcomed to AFR-1.

This fall was noteworthy as the poorest in recent years, particularly at the most southeasterly offshore stations. Cold fronts with northwesterly winds were weak or lacking for most of the period. Manomet, Nantucket, Kingston, and Block Island reached their lowest totals in recent years, while the more northerly stations at Rockport, Brunswick, and Mt. Desert reported only slightly higher numbers than the generally poor totals of last year. No incursive species appeared in numbers, and only a few trends emerged. Manomet and Mt. Desert both noted continued high populations of the Spruce-Budworm-related Cape May and Bay-breasted Warbler. Species mentioned as still relatively low in numbers included both kinglets (increasing) and Winter Wren, apparently related to several hard southern winters. Particularly low totals of Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted at Rockport, Nantucket, Kingston, and Block Island, and to a lesser extent at Manomet. Catbirds were lower at the three southernmost stations. Poor nesting success among southern New England



breeders was supported by low totals of Gray Catbird, Yellowthroat, and Black-capped Chickadee at several stations. The continued explosion of the House Finch population was apparent at Rockport, and Tufted Titmice increased substantially at Kingston and Manomet.

Table 1. Region I summary

	Westport Nova Scotia	Mount Desert Maine	Brunswick Maine	Rockport Mass.	Manomet Mass.	Nantucket Mass.	Kingston Rhode Is.	Block Is. Rhode Is.
Days of operation	25	7	50	99	75	21	54	41
Number of nets used	2-15	4	3-13	5-7	50	2-4	2-4	2-10
Total net hours	1088	119	1233	5196	34865	175	685	3064
Largest daily catch	193	79	114	63	238	99	24	91
Birds banded 1978	1807	271	1307	1861	3908	458	442	939
Birds banded 1977	—	383	1264	1386	4307	865	881	1556
Different species 1978	62	28	62	82	105	43	51	73
Different species 1977	—	40	72	73	99	45	59	71
Birds/100 n.h. 1978	166	227	101	36	11	255	65	31
Birds/100 n.h. 1977	—	104	59	28	15	320	113	75

Table 2. Interesting or most common species 1978

Westport Nova Scotia	Brunswick Maine	Rockport Mass.	Manomet Mass.	Nantucket Mass.	Kingston Rhode Is.	Block Is. Rhode Is.
177 Red-eyed Vireo	226 Song Sparrow	305 W-t Sparrow	719 Yel-rump Warb	153 Yel-rump Warb	74 W-t Sparrow	145 Gray Catbird
176 Magnolia Warb	206 W-t Sparrow	221 Gray Catbird	456 Gray Catbird	64 Song Sparrow	73 Dark-eyed Junco	48 Am Robin
111 C Yellowthroat	100 Yel-rump Warb	182 House Finch	347 Blackpoll Warb	58 Cape May Warb	33 Gray Catbird	37 Hermit Thrush
96 Yel-rump Warb	73 Savannah Sp	158 Am Robin	324 W-t Sparrow	31 Blackpoll Warb	23 Yel-rump Warb	34 R-s Towhee
95 N. Waterthrush	65 W-c Sparrow	135 Song Sparrow	224 B-c Chickadee	23 Gray Catbird	21 Am Redstart	34 Am Redstart
87 W-t Sparrow	62 Am Redstart	88 Dark-eyed Junco	177 Am Robin	23 Am Goldfinch	16 C. Yellowthroat	
83 Am Redstart	53 Nashville Warb	77 Am Goldfinch	128 Red-eyed Vireo	17 C. Yellowthroat		
71 Ovenbird	51 Dark-eyed Junco	73 Yel-rump Warb	113 Tuft Titmouse	9 Am Redstart		
	47 Red-eyed Vireo	60 B-c Chickadee	113 Am Redstart	8 Bay-br Warb		
	45 Swamp Sparrow	44 Red-eyed Vireo	97 Dark-eyed Junco	8 W-t Sparrow		

Westport, Nova Scotia
Robert R. Anderson

The Northern Point banding station is located on Brier Island, Digby County, N.S. It is approximately one mile north of the village of Westport, N.S.

This fall the station was in operation for 25 days, from 25 August to 27 September, between 0700 and 1300. Strong winds and rain cancelled banding on 9 days during this period.

On 23 September, 193 birds of 39 species were banded, the largest single day total in our three years of operation. Increases were noted in Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Yellow-bellied, Least, and Olive-sided Flycatchers; Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees; all thrushes; and a dramatic increase in Mourning Warblers — 14 in 1977 and 45 in 1978. Black-and-white Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows were down this year about 30% compared with 1977. Winter Wrens still continue to decline (7 banded in 1976, 1 in 1977, and 0 in 1978).

New species banded this fall were Gray-cheeked Thrush and Rusty Blackbird on 23 September.

This fall's only rarity was a Yellow-breasted Chat on 6 September.

Somesville, Mount Desert, Maine
Barbara Patterson

The Somesville banding station was in operation for only 7 days from 18 August to 26 August. The time of netting, generally 0800-1200, and the net lanes were the same as in previous years. There were 271 new birds banded of 28 species in 119 net-hours, or 227 birds/100 n.h. During the same dates last year (1977), the take was 136 birds/100 n.h. —considerably less. Warblers comprised 89% of the total. The best days were 18 August with 79 and 20 August with 52.

In spite of the comparatively few days of netting, the Cape May Warblers were at an all-time high of 35. Bay-breasted Warblers (71) were at their second highest with a peak of 84 in 1975. There were no returns during the above period, but on 25 September 1978, an isolated day of netting, a Blackpoll Warbler banded 15 September 1976 as an HY, returned. The Blackpoll is virtually unknown as a breeder on this coast, hence a return for such a purely migratory species seemed especially significant. There were no rarities or foreign retraps.

Brunswick, Maine
David Mehlman

Fall 1978 was Coleman Farm banding station's best season ever. 1207 new birds plus 348 repeats and returns for a total of 1655 birds were handled. Because banding started on 1 September this year (22 August last year) many early migrating species were missed. However, a combination of very good weather and heavy flights of birds in September and October enabled us to exceed last fall's total.

Net locations and banding procedure were the same as in previous years; the major addition was a new and

accurate scale for weighing birds. Nets were opened whenever possible — primarily in afternoons on weekdays and mornings on weekends. Five traps were also used, catching a total of 211 new and repeat birds. Much data was obtained in our continuing study of weight gains in migrant birds.

Top days this fall were 19 October, 10 September, and 14 September with 114, 112, and 71 birds banded. Only one new species was banded — the House Sparrow (!), and the most interesting birds proved to be Mourning Warblers on 10 and 16 September. Age distribution of this fall's birds was: HY 76%, AHY 16%, and 8% unknown. We have learned that a Black-capped Chickadee, banded on 24 September 1977, was recovered in Lebanon, CT, 28 November 1977.

Species showing large increases over last fall included: Savannah Sparrow (+711%), Red-eyed Vireo (+236%), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (+133%), White-crowned Sparrow (+103%), and Nashville Warbler (+89%). Species declining were: Tree Sparrow (-87%), American Robin (-81%), Purple Finch (-73%), Black-and-white Warbler (-68%), and Tennessee Warbler (-66%). Sparrows as a group were well over last year's numbers — Tree Sparrows being the only species out of 9 to show a loss. Ruby-crowned Kinglets showed a distinct gain from last year but are still far below 1976. The decline in robins continued from last year, again probably reflecting a local change in habitat rather than a more widespread phenomenon. The drop in certain warbler species is attributable to the late starting date, although some species appeared to have had very good late flights (Nashville Warbler, American Redstart).

Jeff Cherry and I did all the banding, with several students at Bowdoin College assisting.



Rockport, Massachusetts
Russell T. Norris

This is the third year of operation for the Whale Cove station. The banding pattern in 1978 was similar to 1977. Nets were in use 99 days between 1 August and 15 November for a total of 5,196 net-hours. Some trapping was also done, particularly on days when high winds made netting impractical. A total of 2,149 new birds of 82 species were captured — 1,861 in nets and 288 in traps. 349 repeats were recorded.

The fall months of 1978 were unusually warm with the first killing frost in Whale Cove on 26 November. Drought conditions of late summer continued throughout the fall. High winds did not affect banding operations to the extent that they did in 1977.

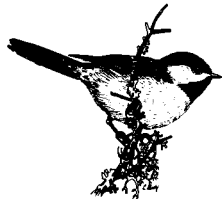
Because the net hours in 1978 were roughly similar to those of 1977, some interesting comparisons may be

made. The most common species captured by netting were: White-throated Sparrow, 305 in 1978 — 138 in 1977; Gray Catbird, 221 in '78 — 114 in '77; House Finch, 182 in '78 — 156 in '77; American Robin, 158 in '78 — 44 in '77; Song Sparrow, 135 in '78 — 110 in '77; Dark-eyed Junco, 88 in '78 — 32 in '77; American Goldfinch, 77 in '78 — 104 in '77; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 73 in '78 — 239 in '77; Black-capped Chickadee, 60 in '78 — 69 in '77; Red-eyed Vireo, 44 in '78 — 14 in '77; Cape May Warbler, 41 in '78 — 7 in '77; Northern Waterthrush, 25 in '78 — 14 in '77.

There were no large waves of Yellow-rumped Warblers as in past years, and the 1978 figure is down substantially from 1977. It is even less than 1976 when effort was only 25% of 1978. Blackpoll Warblers and Purple Finches were also down significantly from 1977.

Several peak periods of migration occurred: 10—14 September, 18—21 September, 26—30 September, 18 October, and 24—25 October.

No unusual returns or recoveries were recorded during the period. Unusual new birds banded included two Lark Sparrows on 23 August and 29 August and a Dickcissel on 18 September.



Manomet Bird Observatory, Massachusetts Trevor L. Lloyd-Evans, Staff Biologist

A rather indifferent migration in the spring of 1978 was followed by another low autumn movement, with many species showing lower numbers than usual, but a few increasing. Totals were 29% below average (1972—77) and this was in a dry fall with a normal share of NW winds and cold fronts; local ornithologists all agree that there were just fewer birds around this fall!

From 1 August to 15 November we recorded data on 7,122 land birds of 105 species: 3,908 new bandings plus 3,184 repeats, returns and foreign recoveries, and 30 unbanded. Approximately 50 nets were used on 75 suitable days, in sites similar to those employed in previous years. Nets were open during all daylight hours and traps were not used at this season to avoid bias in comparative totals.

Major falls of migrants were on NW winds following cold fronts and peak days (including repeats) were 203 on 18 September, 160 on 25 September, 238 (maximum) on 26 September, 158 on 27 September, 166 on 28 September, and 216 on 2 October.

Empidonax flycatcher numbers were low for the second year and Black-capped Chickadees only slightly above last year's record low. Tufted Titmouse numbers reached a record 113 banded which is the culmination of a steady rise in this area over the last ten years. Gray Catbird totals slumped to an all-time low of 456 which is 31% below the mean for the previous five years, and Catharus thrushes were below average for the second successive autumn. The two recent severe winters are probably a major factor in the decline of kinglets at MBO: the percent decreases of mean fall banding totals for 1977-78, from the five-year mean for 1972-76, were Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 68% and the more northerly wintering Golden-crowned Kinglet — 88%. Vireos and warblers were average except for the fourth successive high year of the two species which breed in the Spruce Budworm areas of SE Canada. Comparisons of 1970-74 means with 1975-78 means show sharp increases in the latter years; Cape May Warbler steady at + 150% and Bay-breasted Warbler a decline in 1978 (32 banded this fall), but still +545%! Sparrow totals showed a general increase for most species after the low season of 1977.

Table 4. New fall bandings

Season	No. banded	Net hours	Birds/100 n.h.
1 Aug.—15 Nov. 1972	6,684	38,153	17.5
1 Aug.—15 Nov. 1973	5,458	41,301	13.2
1 Aug.—15 Nov. 1974	6,348	37,533	16.9
1 Aug.—15 Nov. 1975	5,358	33,656	15.9
1 Aug.—15 Nov. 1976	4,720	39,400	12.0
1 Aug.—15 Nov. 1977	4,305	29,635	14.5
1 Aug.—15 Nov. 1978	3,908	34,865	11.2

Unusual birds banded this autumn included 7 Saw-whet Owls, a Yellow-throated Vireo on 22 August, a Golden-winged Warbler on 15 September, 5 Connecticut Warblers, 2 Orchard Orioles on 9 August, and a Summer Tanager on 28 August. The oldest bird retrapped this autumn was a Black-capped Chickadee banded on 29 August 1969 and caught several times each year from 1971 onward, making it a 10Y-M. Two new banding records for the Observatory were a Green Heron on 18 September and two White-rumped Sandpipers on 27 and 29 August, bringing our 13-year total to circa 129,000 birds of 202 species.

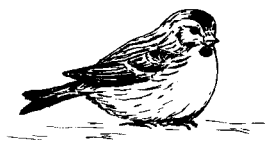
Table 3. Species totals for 1 Aug. — 15 Nov. 1972 through 1977 (plus birds/n.h. x 1,000)

Species	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972
1. Yellow-rumped Warbler	719 (20.6)	857 (28.9)	503 (12.8)	816 (24.2)	1400 (37.3)	632 (15.3)	1304 (34.2)
2. Gray Catbird	456 (13.1)	620 (20.9)	709 (18.0)	578 (17.2)	864 (23.5)	633 (15.3)	809 (21.2)
3. Blackpoll Warbler	347 (10.0)	790 (26.7)	336 (8.5)	271 (8.1)	277 (7.4)	258 (6.2)	463 (12.1)
4. White-throated Sparrow	324 (9.3)	190 (6.4)	296 (7.5)	389 (11.6)	565 (15.1)	455 (11.0)	532 (13.9)
5. Black-capped Chickadee	224 (6.4)	157 (5.3)	697 (17.7)	936 (27.8)	226 (6.0)	979 (23.7)	166 (4.4)
6. American Robin	177 (5.1)	230 (7.8)	151 (3.8)	168 (5.0)	266 (7.1)	163 (3.9)	424 (11.1)
7. Red-eyed Vireo	128 (3.6)	74 (2.5)	59 (1.5)	89 (2.6)	137 (3.7)	155 (3.8)	203 (5.3)
8. Tufted Titmouse	113 (3.2)	25 (0.8)	39 (1.0)	65 (1.9)	80 (2.1)	12 (0.3)	32 (0.8)
9. American Redstart	113 (3.2)	191 (6.4)	311 (7.9)	212 (6.3)	133 (3.5)	90 (2.2)	159 (4.2)
10. Dark-eyed Junco	97 (2.8)	65 (2.2)	30 (0.8)	103 (3.1)	202 (5.4)	145 (3.5)	272 (7.1)

Nantucket, Massachusetts
Edith Andrews

The Nantucket station operated for 21 days from 12 August to 6 November. A total of 458 new birds of 43 species were banded in 175 net-hours or 255 birds/100 n.h. There were many days when either there were no birds present or the wind was so strong that it was not feasible to operate the nets.

This was the poorest year yet. Even our old stand-by, the Yellow-rumped Warbler, was way down — 153 banded in 1978 compared with 406 in 1977. The American Redstart hit an all-time low with only 9 banded compared with 46 in 1977. Some of the warblers which we have come to expect but which were not banded included Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Wilson's. Hermit Thrush Swainson's Thrush, and Golden-crowned Kinglet were represented by 1 each; Ruby-crowned Kinglet by 1, and no Brown Creeper. Not only the insect eaters but the seed eaters, as well, were down in numbers. No White-throated Sparrows were banded in 1978 and there were only 4 Dark-eyed Juncos. Of a total of 58 Cape May Warblers, 45 were banded on 20 September — also our best day with 99 birds banded.

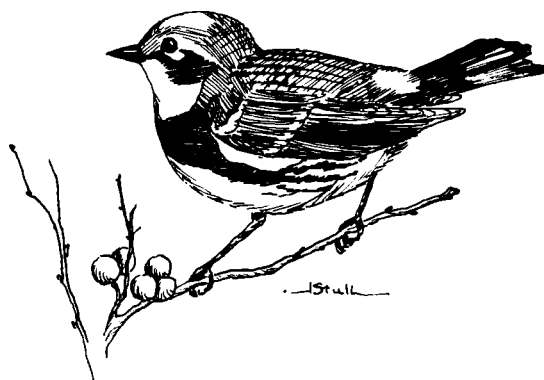


Kingston, Rhode Island
Douglas L. Kraus

The Kingston station was operated in the same manner as in the past six years. The nets were opened before dawn and closed at mid-morning when bird activity in the net lanes had practically ceased. For the years 1973-78 the birds/100 n.h. were 89, 64, 94, 121, 113, and 65. Thus the migration in 1978 was comparable to that in 1974, which was the poorest since netting at this station began in 1956.

The netting was uniformly poor through August and September with only a slight improvement in October. Netting in November and December was confined to only warm days and was more productive with 88 bandings in 78 net-hours for 113 birds/100 n.h. The station was closed for 2 days in September and 7 in October because of inclement weather. It was closed for 14 days in September for other reasons. Most of the more common species decreased markedly from 1977: White-throated Sparrow down 39%, Yellow-rumped Warbler down 76%, American Redstart down 5%, and Song Sparrow down 47%.

The ratios of AHY/HY for Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Common Yellowthroat were 13/7, 7/5, and 7/10. These high ratios could mean that some species nesting locally had poor success. There were 24 returns, of which 18 involved year-round residents, and 47 repeats. An immature Cerulean Warbler on 17 August was a new species for this station. An adult Brewster's Warbler was banded on 26 August. There were no recoveries.



Block Island, Rhode Island
Elise Lapham

The fall of 1978 was the most disappointing we have had in our 12 years of banding at Block Island, both in number of birds banded and the number of species. Although the weather was excellent for people, there were no strong northwest winds as in other years, and we had no days when the nets had to be closed early because of a plethora of birds. There was a slight northwest wind on 16 October, and this was our best day with 91 birds banded. This day hardly compares, however, with the same day in 1977 when 185 new birds were banded. Of the same species banded on the same days in 1978 and 1977, 17 were higher in numbers in 1978, 9 were the same, and 32 species were banded in lower numbers.

The good news was the banding of 31 Golden-crowned Kinglets where there were none in 1977, and 23 Ruby-crowned Kinglets compared with only 7 last year. American Redstarts approximately doubled to 25 and Hermit Thrushes were up to 37 (23 in 1977). There was a decline in Gray Catbird numbers to 145 this year (209 in 1977), and only 21 Blackpoll Warblers (38 in 1977). Last year 23 Northern Waterthrushes were banded, this year only 5.

We had no new species for the station although a Grasshopper Sparrow on 12 October was only our second. We had several recoveries reported during the year, including a Gray Catbird found in Cuba — our second such catbird picked up in that region.

Table 5. Ten-year summary

Year	No. banding days	Birds banded	Net hours	New birds/ 100 n.h.	No. of species
1969	57	3486	2412	145	97
1970	55	4750	2598	184	90
1971	50	1777	1538	93	79
1972	39	1710	1612	106	74
1973	38	1687	1716	98	76
1974	49	2484	2003	124	81
1975	88	4620	5838	79	97
1976	84	4940	6617	75	95
1977	33	1556	2064	75	75
1978	41	939	3064	31	73