

1980

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

North American Bird Bander

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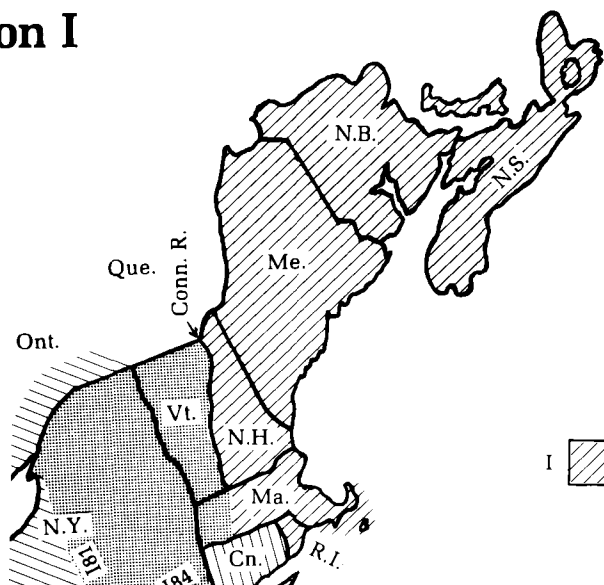
# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

**Richard L. Ferren, Coordinator**  
**Berkshire Community College**  
**Pittsfield, MA**

For the fall of 1979, all of the regularly reporting stations submitted reports and a new station at Kent Island, New Brunswick is welcomed to AFR-1.

Totals banded this fall were considerably higher than in the previous fall but still below average at most stations. Rain and even snow hampered activities throughout the region and northwesterly air flow was weak until after the first week of October, when several stations belatedly netted their highest totals. Despite good late season weather, most sparrows were substantially down at all southern New England stations. No in-cursive species were conspicuously present. Southern stations totaled a record low of three Red-breasted Nuthatches, all at Block Island. While kinglets continued their comeback for a second year, the Winter Wren achieved a new low. The Tufted Titmouse and House Finch were respectively up at Manomet and Rockport.

Bay-breasted Warblers continued relatively high population levels from Manomet northward. Elsewhere in southern New England totals of this bud-worm-related species and the Cape May Warbler were somewhat down. Most notable were a phenomenal 622 Cape Mays and 398 Bay-breasts banded **before** 8 September on



Kent Island, where they outnumbered all other species. Kent Island lies to the southeast of most other land in its immediate vicinity, and the presence of these high numbers, especially for the Cape May, supports recent hypotheses (see Williams, *et al.*, *Am. Birds*, 31:3; 32:3) that certain warblers depart the Northeast directly overwater for South America. Contrastingly, these species have never been remarkably numerous at the Brier Island station, where most land transients are presumably intent on a reorientation flight northeastward toward the Maine coast.

**Table 1. Region 1 summary**

	Westport N.S.	Kent Island N.B.	Mt. Desert Maine	Brunswick Maine	Rockport Mass.	Manomet Mass.	Nantucket Mass.	Kingston R.I.	Block Island R.I.
Days of operation	35	37	30	37	99	74	25	65	52
Number of nets used	4-22	5-15	4	0-7	5-7	50	1-4	2-4	2-10
Total net-hours	4266	1756	438	323	4188	33164	249	894	3119
Largest daily catch	526	245	72	85	69	314	78	43	157
Birds banded 1979	4288	2978	544	498	1720	4753	655	978	1469
Birds banded 1978	1807	—	271	1307	1861	3908	458	442	939
Different species 1979	78	67	52	46	74	96	52	67	79
Different species 1978	62	—	28	62	82	105	43	51	73
Birds/100 n.h. 1979	166	170	124	154	41	14	263	109	47
Birds/100 n.h. 1978	166	—	227	101	36	11	261	65	31

**Table 2. Interesting or more common species, 1979**

Westport N.S.	Kent Island N.B.	Mt. Desert Maine	Brunswick Maine	Rockport Mass.	Manomet Mass.
416 Yel-rump Warb	622 Cape May Warb	118 Bay-br Warb	172 Song Sparrow	248 W-th Sparrow	1073 Yel-rump Warb
353 Red-eyed Vireo	399 Bay-breasted W	79 Tennessee W	110 W-th Sparrow	237 G. Catbird	816 G. Catbird
269 Magnolia Warb	351 Yel-rump Warb	50 Blackpoll W	100 Yel-rump Warb	235 House Finch	435 Blackpoll W
247 Blackpoll w	186 Am Redstart	35 Cape May W	64 W-cr Sparrow	131 Am Robin	400 B-c Chickadee
203 N Waterthrush	127 Red-eyed Vireo	27 Swainson's Th	28 Blue Jay	111 Yel-rump Warb	256 Am Robin
144 D-e Junco	118 N Waterthrush	23 Nashville W	27 Savannah Sp	96 Song Sparrow	132 Am Redstart
100 Yel-bell Flycat	115 Savannah Sp	21 Am Redstart		70 Tree Swallow	130 W-th Sparrow
39 S-s Hawk	100 Traill's Flyc	16 B-th Green W		67 B-c Chickadee	122 Tufted Titmouse
5 W-b Nuthatch	94 Yel-bell Flycat	15 Red-eyed Vireo		40 Red-eyed Vireo	108 Red-eyed Vireo
2 Winter Wren	68 Magnolia Warb	10 Blk&Wh Warb		27 Blackpoll Warb	88 Song Sparrow

**Westport, Nova Scotia**  
**Robert R. Anderson**

This fall saw a total of 35 days of banding carried out at the Northern Point, Brier Island station. We had continuous operation from the 25th of August to the 30th of September, plus two weekends in October and one in November. Weather stopped banding completely on five days and curtailed it on six more. Our operation was expanded this year by erecting six new nets and changing our hours of operation from dawn-to-noon, to dawn-to-dusk, giving us a dramatic rise in net hours with a corresponding drop in the number of birds caught per 100 net hours. With more assistants, we were able to keep more nets open on peak migration days this year which increased the number of birds and species caught over last year.

Major waves of birds occurred on 27 and 29 August, and 1, 5, 8, 23, 24, and 30 September, with the best day 27 August, when 526 birds of 42 species were banded.

With all the changes at this station this year, meaningful comparisons with 1978 are difficult. I believe we had a slight reduction in the number of Magnolia Warblers and White-throated Sparrows, and possibly an increase in Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers. The greatly increased total of Yellow-rumped Warblers this year is due entirely to our changes in operation.

This year saw many rarities not banded but seen in the station area. New species for us this year were Merlin, American Woodcock, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Prairie, and Connecticut Warblers, and Lark Sparrow.

I wish to thank all of those people who assisted us this year, particularly Acadia University personnel, Dr. Peter Smith, and his wife, Carolyn Smith.

**Kent Island, New Brunswick 443-0664**  
**Jeffrey Cherry, Peter Cannell**

Kent Island lies seven miles south of Grand Manan Island, midway between Maine and Nova Scotia at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Bowdoin College has operated a summer ornithological station here since 1935, but the first systematic fall banding operation started in fall 1979.

The island is nearly two miles long and one-half mile

wide and lies close to two other small islands. It is wooded with Balsam Fir and White Spruce, with several thickets of alder and Mountain Ash interspersed. There are a few grassy fields and the southern third of the island is covered with dense grasses, raspberry thickets, and ragweed, and is the site of a large Herring Gull colony.

We banded from 24 July to 7 September. Nets were placed in alder thickets, spruce-fir woods, and field edges. Several six- and nine-meter-high nets were run in addition to normal two-meter-high nets. Nets were usually open from sunrise to mid-morning and from mid-afternoon to dusk. Banding procedures were based on those of Manomet Bird Observatory, although we took more extensive molt data.

The first large movement of the season was on 7 August (229 birds handled), and banding totals continued to be high for the next four days. This was a period of light to moderate northwest winds with mostly clear skies. Other days with large totals were; 17 August (162); 21 August (133); 22 August (205); 23 August (161); 27 August (133); 28 August (153); 1 September (245); and 5 September (142). Each of these days followed either a calm night or one with light to moderate northwest to northeast winds.

Seventy-five percent of birds banded were Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers. Both have been associated with Spruce Budworm outbreaks, and have been increasing in the past few years at several other stations (see AFR:1 1978). Out totals for these species were substantially higher than any AFR:1 stations reported last year, perhaps because of the offshore location.

The following species were out of their normal ranges: a Kentucky Warbler on 23 August; two Prairie Warblers on 4 and 5 September; two Blue-winged Warblers on 17 and 22 August; a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on 28 August; three Lark Sparrows, one on 23 August and two on 4 September; and five Yellow-breasted Chats.

**Somesville, Mount Desert, Maine**  
**Barbara Patterson**

The Somesville banding station was in operation for 30 days from 15 August to 27 September as well as 7 and 16 October. The net lanes and time of netting, generally 0800-1200, were the same as in previous years. A total of 544 new birds of 52 species were banded in 438 net-hours. Warblers comprised 78% of the total, and 89% of the warblers were HYs. Best days were 17 August with 45, 18 August (55), 20 August (72), and 28 August (39).

There were no outstanding ups or downs in species numbers with the exception of the Bay-breasted Warbler. It was certainly a good year for them with an all-time high of 118 at this station (84 in 1975). The Hermit Thrush seems to be declining in this area. The average number per year for the last ten is 6.9, while the average for the preceding six years is 29.6. There has been no change in banding procedure, number of nets used, net lanes, time of day, etc. — only the natural change in vegetation.

**Table 2. (cont.)**

Nantucket Mass.	Kingston R.I.	Block Island R.I.
357 Yel-rump Warb	146 G Catbird	352 Yel-rump Warb
36 Blackpoll W	133 W-th Sparrow	275 G Catbird
34 G. Catbird	110 Yel-rump Warb	28 Red-eyed Vireo
29 Cape May Warb	74 Blackpoll W	50 Brown Creeper
26 Savannah Sp	56 C Yellowthroat	48 Blackpoll W
25 Song Sparrow	51 Am Redstart	47 Hermit Thrush
16 Palm Warbler		46 C Yellowthroat
12 B-c Chickadee		37 G-c Kinglet
10 Am Redstart		30 R-c Kinglet
		34 Am Robin

Two warblers returned. A Black-throated Green, banded 21 August 1978, returned 9 September 1979; and a Black-and-White Warbler, banded 19 May 1977, returned 27 August 1979. There were no rarities or foreign retraps.

#### **Brunswick, Maine**

**Jeffrey Cherry, Mary Windels, Jared Keyes**

Fall 1979 was the fifth fall that Bowdoin College students have run the Coleman Farm banding station. The season's banding began on 11 September, ten days later than in past years. There were thirteen fewer days of operation than in the falls of 1977 and 1978. We banded about three mornings a week, and most afternoons. Because of the late start, the total number of net-hours was lower than in previous years. However, more traps were used, giving a greater number of trap-hours.

We were unable to use some woodland net lanes where many warblers were caught in past falls. Because of this and the late starting date, we banded few warblers other than Yellow-rumped and Palm. As a result, our total number of birds banded was half of that of preceeding years. Species common in past years were banded in average to high numbers. Only Blue Jays increased significantly over other falls, with more than twice as many banded as usual.

The peak for late-migrating species (Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow) was from 10-14 October, more than a week earlier than in other years. This peak fell during the abnormally cold spell from 8-20 October, when temperatures averaged ten degrees lower than normal. After this peak, few birds were banded, and operations ceased at the end of the month.

Three species new to the station were banded during fall 1979: one Dickcissel on 10 October, ten Rusty Blackbirds on 5 and 6 October, and one Worm-eating Warbler on 5 October. The station's second Yellow-breasted Chat was netted on 23 September.

#### **Rockport, Massachusetts**

**Russell T. Norris**

This is the fourth year of operation for the Whale Cove Station. Weather conditions permitting, nets were in use all day on most days between 1 August and 15 November, and some trapping was also carried out. A total of 2109 new birds of 74 species were captured — 1720 in nets and 389 in traps. Also, 492 repeats were recorded.

The autumn months of 1979 were unusually warm, the first killing frost in Whale Cove coming on 17 November. The dry summer ended with heavy rains in mid-August continuing through much of September and October. These rains made netting difficult and reduced total net-hours substantially below the total for 1978 with the same number of days of operation.

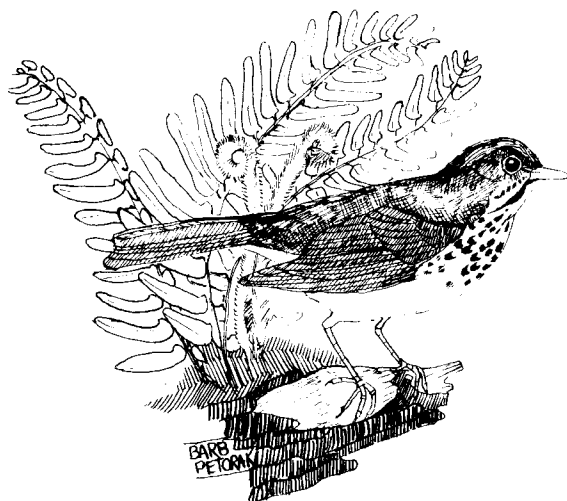
A comparison of the ten most common species captured by netting in 1979 as compared to 1978, the latter in parentheses: White-throated Sparrow 248 (305); Gray Catbird 237 (221); House Finch 235 (182); American Robin 131 (158); Yellow-rumped Warbler 111 (73); Song Sparrow 96 (135); Tree Swallow 70 (8); Black-capped Chickadee 67 (60); Red-eyed Vireo 40 (44); Blackpoll Warbler 27 (16).

The large increase in Tree Swallows reflects the late summer concentrations of this species which happened to be closer to the nets in 1979 and does not necessarily indicate any population change. Other species which increased substantially over 1978 levels were the Brown Creeper, Yellow Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat. Species showing reduced numbers were the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, and Cape May Warbler. Dark-eyed Juncos decreased from 88 to 17. The American Goldfinch continued a decline with 16 this year compared to 77 last year.

House Finch populations in the Whale Cove area continue to increase as indicated from netting operations. Many others were captured by trapping. Total House Finches banded by all capture methods were 804, up from 642 in 1978.

The fall migration of 1979 at this station could best be described as lackluster or dismal. One wave of relatively small magnitude occurred on 9-11 October with the peak day 11 October. Rain at frequent intervals throughout much of the period made netting difficult and unproductive.

No unusual returns or recoveries were recorded during the period. Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, a new species for the station, were captured, the last on 7 November. Other items of note were seven Yellow-breasted Chats and two Indigo Buntings. A Dickcissel was captured on 4 October, the only real wanderer taken during the period.

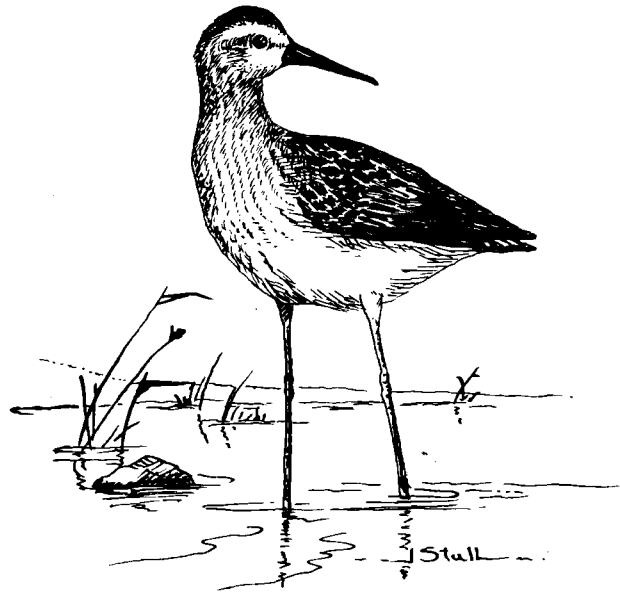


A second weak spring migration (both 1978 and 1979), was followed by a more normal autumn migration in 1979 with our fair share of NW winds. Totals banded were only 5% below the average for 1973-78.

From 1 August to 15 November we recorded data on 7,420 land birds of 96 species: 4,753 new bandings plus 2,625 repeats or returns, and 42 unbanded. Approximately 50 nets were used on 74 suitable days, in sites similar to those employed in previous years. Nets were open during all daylight hours and traps were not used in this season to avoid biasing comparative totals per net-hour. Major falls of migrants were on NW winds following cold fronts; peak days (including repeats) were 216 on 21 August, 200 on 17 September, 245 on 20 September, 225 on 2 October, 236 on 11 October, and a rather late maximum catch of 314 on 15 October.

(a) Decreasing species: Numbers of all flycatchers have continued to decline since 1975, this year's total being 40% below 1978. Nuthatches were down again, no Red-breasted caught for the first fall since 1970, and no Winter Wrens for our first fall ever! The increases in Bay-breasted Warblers seen since 1975, and ascribed to the Spruce Budworm outbreak, are still evident; numbers are up an average 255% in the years 1975-79 versus 1970-74. However, the other "budworm" species, Cape May Warbler, has dropped back to pre-1975 levels. All sparrows have shown a steady decline over the last five years; 1979 totals were 57% below 1978, our most severe drop yet! Tree Sparrows were 93% below the 1978 figure of 76 caught, and Grasshopper Sparrows were completely absent for the second year running.

(b) Increasing species: Black-capped Chickadees were nearly double the fall 1978 catch, while Tufted Titmice were up again from last year, 91% above the mean for the previous five years. Gray Catbirds were more abundant than any year since 1974, thrushes were up 22% this year after the 1978 low point in a previous steady decline. Kinglets both showed a welcome increase from the lows of 1977-78, Golden-crowned up 67% over 1978, Ruby-crowned up 71%. Warblers also showed a rise (21%) in all of 1979 over 1978, northern breeders increasing greatly (30%), while local breeders declined 11%.



Unusual birds banded this autumn included 4 Yellow-billed and 5 Black-billed Cuckoos, 3 Yellow-throated Vireos in September, 6 Orange-crowned Warblers, and a high 54 Yellow-breasted Chats. Away from the site, rare species banded included a Western Sandpiper at Plymouth Beach on 4 September, plus 1 Sooty Tern, 3 Bridled Terns, and 16 Wilson's Storm-Petrels banded at sea this fall.

**Table 1. New fall bandings**

Season	No. banded	Net hours	Birds/100 n.h.
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
1 Aug—15 Nov 1979	4,753	33,164	14.3

**Table 2. Species totals for 1 Aug.—15 Nov. 1973 through 1979 (plus birds/N.H. x 1,000)**

Species	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973
1. Yellow-rumped Warbler	1073 (32.4)	719 (20.6)	857 (28.9)	503 (12.8)	816 (24.2)	1400 (37.3)	632 (15.3)
2. Gray Catbird	816 (24.6)	456 (13.1)	620 (20.9)	709 (18.0)	578 (17.2)	864 (23.5)	633 (15.3)
3. Blackpoll Warbler	435 (13.1)	347 (10.0)	790 (26.7)	336 ( 8.5)	271 ( 8.1)	277 ( 7.4)	258 ( 6.2)
4. Black-capped Chickadee	400 (12.1)	224 ( 6.4)	157 ( 5.3)	697 (17.7)	936 (27.8)	226 ( 6.0)	979 (23.7)
5. American Robin	256 ( 7.7)	177 ( 5.1)	230 ( 7.8)	151 ( 3.8)	168 ( 5.0)	266 ( 7.1)	163 ( 3.9)
6. American Redstart	132 ( 4.0)	113 ( 3.2)	191 ( 6.4)	311 ( 7.9)	212 ( 6.3)	133 ( 3.5)	90 ( 2.2)
7. White-throated Sparrow	130 ( 3.9)	324 ( 9.3)	190 ( 6.4)	296 ( 7.5)	389 (11.6)	565 (15.1)	455 (11.0)
8. Tufted Titmouse	122 ( 3.7)	113 ( 3.2)	25 ( 0.8)	39 ( 1.0)	65 ( 1.9)	80 ( 2.1)	12 ( 0.3)
9. Red-eyed Vireo	108 ( 3.3)	128 ( 3.6)	74 ( 2.5)	59 ( 1.5)	89 ( 2.6)	137 ( 3.7)	155 ( 3.8)
10. Song Sparrow	88 ( 2.7)	67 ( 1.9)	48 ( 1.6)	85 ( 2.2)	101 ( 3.0)	158 ( 4.2)	151 ( 3.7)

**Nantucket, MA**  
**Edith Andrews**

A new banding location was added to the Nantucket station in 1979. Two nets were set against a multiflora hedge row at one end of an abandoned field of eggplants and peppers. A Chestnut-collared Longspur (HY F) was captured here, the third record for the state, the second in this century. The bird was banded, measured, photographed, and released on 12 October. This same field yielded Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Grasshopper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Blackpoll Warblers, Western Palm Warblers, and one Yellow Palm Warbler. Gale force WNW winds on 8 October brought numerous western and southern strays to the island.

Banding at the two regular locations was generally poor. There were no big days in September — a total of 30 on the 16th was the highest daily total for that month compared to 99 on 20 September 1978. Yellow-rumped Warblers boosted the daily totals in October, and a Clay-colored Sparrow banded 17 October was a new species for the Madaket location.

**Kingston, Rhode Island**  
**Douglas L. Kraus**

This station was operated in the same manner as in the past seven years. The nets were opened before dawn and closed when bird activity in the net lanes had practically ceased, usually by mid-morning. Netting in November and December was done in the afternoon when it was warmer. For the years 1974-79 the birds/100 net-hours were 64, 94, 121, 113, 65, and 109. The migration in 1979 was average, but much improved over 1978.

The weather was wetter than normal with 10 days lost to rain or snow (three inches on 10 October). The cold fronts that moved through were weak and did not produce any large peaks of birds.

Most of the more common species were banded in average or above average numbers. The Dark-eyed Junco was an exception with only 15 banded in 1979 as compared with 73 in 1978 and 117 in 1977. The numbers of Blackpoll Warblers were notably high with 74 in 1979 as compared with peaks of 27 in 1977 and 13 in 1975. For this species the ratio of adult to immature banded in September was 13 to 50.

There were 28 returns with 14 involving year-round residents, and 145 repeats. A White-throated Sparrow, netted on 18 November, wore the band number 1241-91581 and was a foreign recovery. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on 20 August was a new species for this station.



**Block Island, Rhode Island**  
**Elise Lapham**

Our thirteenth year of banding at Block Island started off very slowly. While other eastern stations reported an early migration, we had almost no influx of birds in August or September. In spite of hurricanes David and Frederick, the weather on the whole was mild and sunny with no northwest winds until 20 September and then not again until 14 October. It was not until 2 October that birds began to come through with any fat content. This was a much later date than in previous years.

Last fall provided the worst banding of our experience; 1979 was better both in the number of species and in birds per net hour, but was still far below any of the other 12 years.

As noted in the past, our peak days always come with a northwest wind and, as a result, our best days were 12-16 October. Yellow-rumped Warblers were back in force with 352 banded and 900 released unbanded because of lack of assistants. This compares to 1978 when 189 were banded and only 184 released. Both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets continued their slight increase since 1977, when only 7 Ruby-crowns and no Golden-crowns were banded. Sparrows seemed generally down in numbers; we had only 27 White-throated Sparrows (51 in 1978), 9 Dark-eyed Juncos (27 in 1978), and 22 Rufous-sided Towhees (34 in 1978).

We had no new species for the station, although a Prothonotary Warbler was only our third. No recoveries were reported this year, and for the first time we had no hummingbirds in the nets. Hawks were everywhere on the island this fall, and several times the nets had to be closed because of hawk predation.

## Where the migration begins Richard M. Poulin

Although there are quite a few breeding birds included in these bandings, the majority would still have to be considered as migrants as many species and individuals banded do not breed in the Juniper area. The migration of warblers and thrushes begins surprisingly early in the hill country of New Brunswick. Many of the birds I banded were moving slowly through the area. It is very noticeable during the day that the birds seem to be moving through in groups, in waves. I thus thought that my results would provide a more comprehensive coverage of the migration phenomena in the AFR.

**Juniper, Carleton Co.  
New Brunswick, Canada 463-0671  
Richard M. Poulin**

This banding location is along the Miramachi River between the Canadian National Railway and a road leading to the J.D. Irving Tree Nursery. Up to 14 nets were operated from dawn to dusk from 5 to 18 August 1979, except during periods of rain. The habitat consists of thick alder (*Alnus* sp.) surrounded by mature fir-spruce (*Abies-Picea*) woods with grassy fields. Banding has been carried on there for four years during two weeks of vacation. The net lanes were the same as in the past with the addition of 4 nets along the railroad right of way. Nets were a mixture of 1½" and 1¼" mesh, tethered and untethered.

A total of 1,007 individuals were captured, 7 of which were recaptures. This is a considerable increase from the previous 3-year average of 359 new bandings, which can be accounted for by the increase in total net-hours, as the birds per 100 net-hours was up only slightly from past years. There was a noticeable decrease in new bandings after the heavy rains and cool weather of 13 August (before 13 August — 52 birds/100 n.h.; after 13 August — 40 birds/100 n.h.).

The periods of banding for the previous 3 years are: 5 to 18 September 1976; 27 August to 2 September 1977; 26 August to 2 September 1978.

### Summary

Days of operation: 13  
Maximum nets: 14  
Birds banded 1979: 1000  
Total species 1979: 60  
Largest daily catch: 145  
Total net-hours: 2092  
Birds/100 n.h. 1979: 48  
Birds banded 1978: 374  
Birds/100 n.h. 1978: 45

## Most commonly banded species in 1979 with 1978 comparisons

Species	1979	1978
Tennessee Warbler	103	8
Swainson's Thrush	99	134
American Redstart	71	7
White-throated Sparrow	52	38
Magnolia Warbler	38	9
Canada Warbler	35	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	30	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	27	0
Common Yellowthroat	27	13
Hermit Thrush	26	4
Northern Waterthrush	26	2
Chipping Sparrow	26	1
Barn Swallow	25	0

## Percentage comparison by groups in 1979 and 1978

Species	1979 %	1978 %
Warblers	44	24
Fringillids	23	19
Thrushes	15	40
Flycatchers	7	3
Vireos	3	7
Others	8	7

## Percentage of hatching year birds in 1979 by band size

Band size	0	1	1B	1A	2&3	Total
% hatching year birds	84	80	76	74	68	82

## Percentage of hatching year birds in 1979 by species

Species	%
Tennessee Warbler	90
Swainson's Thrush	84
American Redstart	83
White-throated Sparrow	71
Magnolia Warbler	84
Canada Warbler	89
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	80
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	85
Common Yellowthroat	74
Hermit Thrush	77
Northern Waterthrush	88
Chipping Sparrow	73
Barn Swallow	92

# History of Eastern Bird Banding Association (cont.)

Mrs. Roger W. Foy  
Historian, 1974-79

**1928.** The President conferred with the Council of N.E.B.B.A. at a meeting called on 7 May for the purpose of having New England Bird Banding Association publish our records. The Council of Eastern Bird Banding Association decided to assist N.E.B.B.A. (known then, according to a letter from Cornell University, as New England Bird Banding Association and changing their name later), and make a joint effort of the two publications. The annual dues were to be the same as in the N.E.B.B.A., namely \$2.00, of which \$1.50 would be paid to them for publication of their excellent Bulletin, while \$.50 would remain in our treasury.

President: Dr. J.T. Nichols — New York City  
Vice Pres: Rudyerd Boulton — Pittsburgh, PA  
Secretary: R.H. Howland — Upper Montclair, NJ  
Treasurer: Miles D. Pirnie — Ithaca, NY  
Newsletter: October — mimeographed for distribution monthly to our members

Editor: (Associate Editor) Dr. J.T. Nichols  
Annual Meeting: This was a Council meeting on 28 August

Place: unknown

Councillors: Dr. Arthur A. Allen; Beecher S. Bowdish; Verdi Burtch, Branchport, NY; Howard H. Cleaves; Ralph A. DeLury, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Richard E. Horsey, Rochester, NY; R.J. Middleton, Jeffersonville, PA; Whitmer Stone, Philadelphia, PA.

**1929.** EBBA members now support in part and receive regularly the Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association. In 1928 S. Prentiss Baldwin, B.S. Bowdish, Carter T. Donald, Mabel Gillespie, and John T. Nichols published articles in this magazine.

President: Dr. J.T. Nichols  
Vice President: John A. Gillespie  
Secretary: R.H. Howland  
Treasurer: Warren F. Eaton  
Annual Meeting: Council meeting 19 November  
Place: American Museum of Natural History, NY

The following announcement came from Northeastern Bird Banding Association in Vol. 3, 1928:

"A meeting of the Councillors of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association was held in Boston on May 7th last, to discuss with Maunsell Crosby (1927), President of the Eastern Bird Banding Association, the question of making this 'BULLETIN' the official publication of both Associations. The Councillors of the Northeastern Association have long felt that a consolidation of the publication of the two Associations as well as those of the Inland and Western Associations was desirable, and that such action should be taken at the earliest opportunity. Therefore the following definite arrangements were agreed upon with Mr. Crosby, who had the authority to act for his Association:

"It is agreed that this BULLETIN is to be the official publication of the Northeastern and Eastern Bird Banding Associations without change in its name and/or general form, and that the Treasurer of the Eastern Association shall pay to the Treasurer of the Northeastern Association one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) in payment of one year's subscription for each member of the Eastern Association to whom the BULLETIN shall be sent. (The Membership of the Eastern Bird Banding Association is about one hundred.)

"It was voted:

- (1) That the Eastern Association be invited to appoint an Editor;
- (2) That the yearly subscription to the Bulletin be raised from one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) to one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50);
- (3) That the Northeastern Association continue to edit; to have published; and to distribute the Bulletin to all members of both Associations."

**1930 The publication, *Bird-Banding*, Vol. 1, #1, began this year, and it was published for NEBBA, EBBA, and Inland Bird Banding Associations.**

President: John T. Nichols  
Honorary President: S. Prentiss Baldwin  
Vice Pres: John A. Gillespie  
Secretary: T. Donald Carter  
Treasurer: Warren F. Eaton  
Publication: *Bird-Banding* Vol. 1, No. 1, 2, 3, 4  
Associate Editor for EBBA: John T. Nichols

EBBA had a paid-up membership of 51. Dues — \$2.00.

## 1931

President: John T. Nichols  
Honorary President: S. Prentiss Baldwin  
Vice Pres: John A. Gillespie  
Secretary: T. Donald Carter  
Treasurer: Warren F. Eaton  
Publication: *Bird-Banding* Vol. 2, No. 1, 2, 3, 4.  
Associate Editor: John T. Nichols

Dues for 1931 — \$2.00.



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## Polygynous Boat-tailed Grackles

On 15 June 1978, while on a banding trip at Stone Harbor, New Jersey, I observed a male Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*) in a small cedar tree with a few females near it. I walked over to the area to see if I could find any nests and did find a few nests in small bayberry bushes and others in small cedar trees. Some nests had young birds, while others contained eggs. I banded the young that were large enough for banding.

In this small patch of bayberry and cedar, I found eight Boat-tailed Grackle nests but noticed that, during the entire time I was there (1½ hours), only one male was present. (I had also observed this behavior in the American Woodcock [*Philohela*

*minor*]. At Tinicum, PA, I discovered four nests in one area with one one singing male in the vicinity. This small colony is polygynous, not promiscuous, in the area.)

On 13 June 1979, I returned to Stone Harbor to determine if polygyny were recurring in this small colony of grackles. I found nine nests with young and eggs in them. During the one hour in which I was there, I saw four males in the colony instead of one.

John C. Miller  
1220 Prospect Avenue  
Prospect Park, PA 19076

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## Hawk Migration Committee Connecticut Audubon Council, Inc. Conference

The New England Hawk Migration Committee of the Connecticut Audubon Council wishes to announce plans for a New England Regional Hawk Migration Conference to be held in April 1981. This meeting will commemorate ten years of organized hawk watching in New England. Detailed announcements will be forthcoming. For information write: Hawks, P.O. Box 212, Portland, CT 06480.

### Data available

Ten years of New England hawk migration data is now available collectively at the library of Taft School in Watertown, CT 06795. Persons wishing to use this data may do so by contacting New England Hawk Migration Committee member, Neil Currie (203-274-3030).

## In Memoriam Isabel Tipton

Sam Tipton has informed us that his wife, Isabel, died on 21 April 1980 after a short illness. We will all miss her, for she and Sam have been very active in E.B.A. At the time of her death Isabel was still active as a councillor.

## Homely reminiscence

I received my Federal Bird Banding Permit, No. 3802, in 1928. On 16 June of that year, I was building my first Government Sparrow Trap in St. Davids, PA, when my mother called me in to lunch. On returning outside, I found that a House Wren had entered the **unfinished** trap. By throwing my shirt over the wires, I was able to capture the bird, which I recorded as my first banding triumph, No. 55495B. My 3 x 5 card states that it was a female, although since no one had popularized [the examination of] brood patches in those days, I cannot now stand by my original opinion as to its sex.

However, it strikes me as remarkable that exactly 50 years later, to the very date, on 16 June 1978, I trapped and banded a female House Wren, with a fully respectable brood patch, in a bird box on my farm in Eldora, NJ. That one, No. 120-70151, was separated by some 12,500 bands from its historic predecessor. (Another discrepancy: my mother, 100 years old, did not prepare my lunch this time.)

C. Brooke Worth, Former President, EBBA  
R.D. Delmont, NJ 08314

