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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

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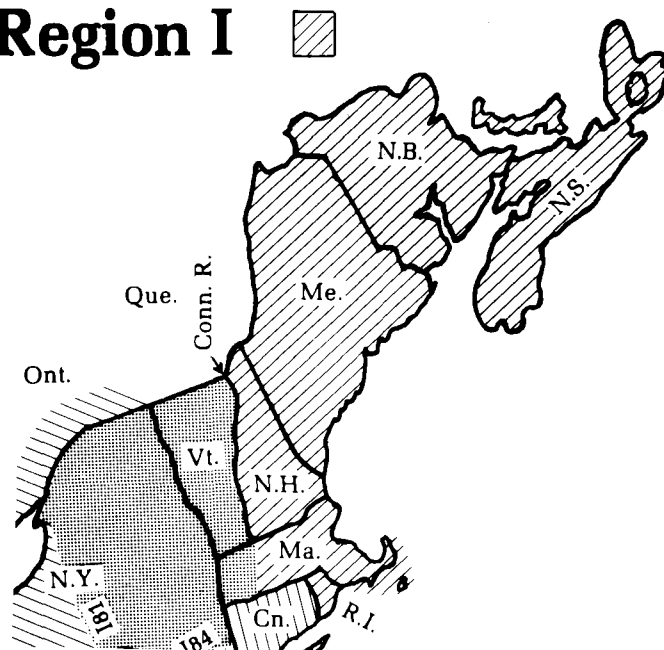
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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

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During fall 1981, all regular southern New England stations reported as usual, with the only changes northward; the Maine stations not reporting this year were sorely missed but an almost new station at Port Clyde, Maine is welcomed (see NABB, 6:2, p. 63 for last year's report).

The 1981 banding season in AFR-I received a somewhat negative review, with most stations except Block Island experiencing a decline in birds/n.h. over average figures. The most notable event was the unprecedented flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches, easily exceeding all maxima at most stations, including the good flight of 1980. Black-capped Chickadees seemed to be in excellent numbers at mainland stations, an apparent echo flight after the near record numbers of 1980. Three Boreal Chickadees at Manomet further suggested chickadee movement. For a second year the Spruce Budworm-related Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers remained down from previous high numbers. Most reduced were many northern thrushes and sparrows, perhaps due to the lack of peak-season northwesterly winds. The Brown Creeper, Red-eyed Vireo, and Black-throated Blue Warbler,



however, were decidedly increased. Lastly, Mockingbird and Tufted Titmouse numbers went still higher than the high numbers of previous years at Manomet and Rockport, whose stations are well placed for recording the northeastward dispersal of these increasing southern species.

Table 1. Region I summary

	Port Clyde ME	Rockport MA	Manomet MA	Nantucket MA	Kingston RI	Block Island RI
Days of operation	56	101	69	41	63	45
Number of nets used	15	8	50	1-12	2-4	3-10
Total net-hours	3978	6276	28,757	2991	765	3013
Largest daily catch	131	97	267	272	26	110
Birds banded 1981	1097	2222	4530	1967	565	1589
Birds banded 1980	456	2242	7474	1131	801	1402
Different species 1981	56	79	96	77	57	80
Different species 1980	40	85	110	54	61	77
Birds/100 n.h. 1981	27.5	35	15.8	65	74	53
Birds/100 n.h. 1980	12.2	43	20.4	514	98	39

Table 2. Interesting or more common species, 1981

Port Clyde ME	Rockport MA	Manomet MA	Nantucket MA	Kingston RI	Block Island RI
221 D-e Junco	364 Am Robin	968 B-c Chickadee	496 Yel-rump Warb	97 Gray Catbird	285 Yel-rump Warb
120 Yel-rump Warb	196 Gray Catbird	580 Gray Catbird	172 R-b Nuthatch	83 D-e Junco	159 Gray Catbird
94 Am Robin	195 W-thr Sparrow	554 Yel-rump Warb	101 Am Redstart	38 B-c Chickadee	111 W-thr Sparrow
72 B-and-w Warb	191 House Finch	368 Tuft Titmouse	97 C Yellowthr	31 W-thr Sparrow	100 Brown Creeper
64 W-thr Sparrow	162 Yel-rump Warb	364 Am Robin	89 Blackpoll Warb	27 C Yellowthr	75 Red-eyed Vireo
52 N Waterthrush	156 B-c Chickadee	182 W-thr Sparrow	76 Gray Catbird	26 Yel-rump Warb	71 R-b Nuthatch
45 Magnolia Warb	111 Song Sparrow	139 Red-eyed Vireo	74 Brown Creeper	15 B-and-w Warb	56 D-e Junco
43 R-b Nuthatch	76 Mockingbird	126 Blackpoll Warb	73 D-e Junco	15 Am Redstart	49 G-c Kinglet
35 Am Redstart	69 B-h Cowbird	112 Blue Jay	63 Cape May Warb	13 House Wren	41 Sw Thrush
33 Bay-b Warb	62 Red-eyed Vireo	84 Am Redstart	55 G-c Kinglet	12 Sw Thrush	40 Am Redstart

Port Clyde, Maine 435-0691
Margery Plymire

In the second year of operation at Port Clyde, 1097 individuals of 56 species were banded between 1 August and 29 October.

Although meaningful comparisons cannot reliably be made on the basis of only 2 years, some observations seem worth noting. Both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were scarce in the area throughout the breeding season, while Red-breasted Nuthatches were unusually abundant. White-throated Sparrows showed a notable increase from the very small number banded in 1980, and Dark-eyed Juncos increased dramatically, moving through this area in huge flights during the period 4 - 10 October, when on 3 days all holding facilities were exhausted and nets had to be closed. Black-and-white Warblers were abundant with 72 banded, compared with only 16 in 1980, and Myrtle Warblers increased from 39 in 1980 to 120 in 1981. The number of Northern Waterthrushes banded seemed remarkable. Numbers of Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers banded at this station declined by roughly half. A Canada Warbler banded as AHY male on 7 August 1980 was recaptured on 19 August 1981.

The biggest days, suggesting peak flights, occurred on 13-14 August with 59 and 47 birds banded; 5-6 October with 86 and 131; and 10 October with 120. September has thus far been conspicuously unproductive at this location in contrast to the normally excellent birding on nearby Monhegan Island at that time. The best September flight appeared to occur on 15 September when this station was closed to permit a visit to another banding station.

Rockport, Massachusetts 423-0703
Russell T. Norris

This is the sixth year of operation for the Whale Cove Station. 8 nets were open on most days, weather permitting, between 1 August and 15 November for a total of 6276 net-hours. Several traps were also in use during some days. A total of 2222 new birds of 79 species were captured in the nets with an additional 467 taken in traps. Also 214 repeats were recorded. Although there was a twenty per cent increase in net-hours, new bandings were at about the same level as in the fall of 1980.

August was very dry on Cape Ann with less than one inch of rain and cool temperatures which continued well into September. Rain interrupted netting in the last half of September and October on a number of occasions. There were several periods of unusually warm weather in October. Many migrants were noted during the 2-4 October period, but unfortunately the station was closed at that time. Strong northwest winds produced the season's only large wave of migrants on 5-10 October with the peak day on the 6th. 102 birds were captured on that date, 97 of them in nets. After the middle of the month, very few migrants were recorded.

In the fall of 1981 there were substantial increases in the numbers of several species banded. The most outstanding event was the tremendous flight of young American Robins in

late August and throughout September which resulted in bandings of more than double any previous year. Black-capped Chickadees were again present in large numbers but were not as abundant as in 1980. Red-eyed Vireos were banded in the highest numbers of record, considerably above the good flights of 1978 and 1979. The widespread reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch abundance were confirmed by the largest number ever banded at this station. One of the big events of the fall was the unprecedented flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with 39 being captured in late September and early October. Tufted Titmice and Mockingbirds were present in the largest numbers ever recorded, the latter probably being attracted by a bumper crop of arrowwood berries.

Several less common species were banded in the largest numbers of record. These included the Eastern Kingbird, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Waterthrush, and Cardinal. The Swainson's Thrush bandings were at an all time high, but the other Catharus thrushes were either very scarce or absent entirely.

The most notable decrease during the fall of 1981 was the Yellow-rumped Warbler. Bandings were down to about 50% of 1980, which was the best year of record. Both kinglets were down from a good year in 1980. Yellow Warbler bandings were about half of the 1980 total and Cape May Warblers continued to be down considerably from the high years of 1976, 1978, and 1979. The Yellow-breasted Chat and Wilson's Warbler were both down to earlier levels after good increases in 1980. The Dark-eyed Junco bandings were back to a lower level after the high years of 1978 and 1980. White-crowned Sparrows were down to usual numbers after the very large flight in 1980. White-throated Sparrows, while still abundant continued to be considerably down from the good years of 1978 and 1979.

The House Finch is still the most numerous bird throughout much of the year. Large numbers of young birds were banded from mid-August to mid-September but the species virtually disappeared after that date.

Only one new species was recorded, a juvenile Bank Swallow banded in early August. Other unusual species banded included a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Solitary Sandpiper, and a Saw-whet Owl.



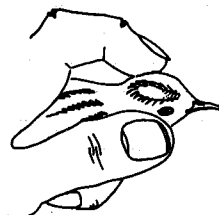
Rainy weather and few days of strong NW winds allowed only 69 days of netting during fall migration 1981. Fall totals were 0.6% below the previous 10-year average. From 1 August to 15 November, we recorded data on 6,815 land birds of 96 species: 4,530 new bandings plus 2,242 repeats or returns and 41 unbanded. Nets were open during all daylight hours, and traps were not used during this season to avoid biasing comparative totals/n.h. Major falls of migrants (including repeats) were 239 on 18 August, 214 on 26 August, 267 (the maximum) on 5 October, 211 on 6 October, 225 on 9 October, and 222 on 13 October.

1 Aug — 15 Nov Year	Number Banded	Net Hours	Birds per 100 n.h.
1973	5,458	41,301	13.2
1974	6,348	37,533	16.9
1975	5,358	33,656	15.9
1976	4,720	39,400	12.0
1977	4,305	29,635	14.5
1978	3,908	34,865	11.2
1979	4,753	33,164	14.3
1980	7,474	36,589	20.4
1981	4,530	28,757	15.8

(a) Increasing species: While numbers of almost all species were down from 1980, the number of Tufted Titmice increased 468% over the average fall numbers from 1976 to 1980, to reach an all time high of 368. Another notable increase was in the number of Red-eyed Vireos. After an unusually poor spring migration, the total of 139 Red-eyed Vireos banded proved to be a fall record for MBO. Finally, the population increase in Mockingbirds is reflected in the number banded at MBO during the last ten years. During the five year period 1977 to 1981, the average number of Mockingbirds/100 n.h. was 305% higher than the average during the falls of 1972 through 1976.

(b) Decreasing species: The apparent increase in the number of thrushes and sparrows which we saw in the fall of 1980 did not presage the start of a population rebound as we had hoped. Rather, last year's high was only an incidental increase in what has proved to be a decade of declining numbers. Between 1977 and 1981, the average number of Catharus thrushes (Veery, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, and Hermit)/100 n.h. was 46% lower than for the years 1972 to 1976. Similarly, the average number of northern breeding sparrows (White-crowned, White-throated, Slate-colored Junco, Song, Lincoln's and Swamp)/100 n.h. in the recent five years was 42% lower than the average for the previous five-year period. The number of Blackpoll Warblers, one of the few species to decline in numbers in the fall of 1980, the year of plenty, continued to decrease in fall 1981 to 67% below the average/100 n.h. for 1976 through 1980.

This fall's migration was not without a few surprises, bringing us 3 Boreal Chickadees and the first fall Hooded Warbler (HY, Male) since 1974. Birds banded outside of our regular banding area include a Dovekie and a Gannet, both brought in after Northeast storms in November, and a Baltimore Oriole banded in Manomet on the 17th of December.



Nantucket, Massachusetts **Edith Andrews**

With the help of Earthwatch volunteers, Nantucket was able to increase the number of nets used and the number of days of operation in 1981. The major banding site was the Mothball Pines where net lanes were virtually the same as in the past except that in some cases the lanes were lengthened to accommodate a string of 4 nets instead of a single one. The nets were in operation from 31 August to 10 October from sunup to sundown depending on weather conditions. During this period at the Mothball, 1812 new birds of 75 species were banded in 2981 net-hours and there were 330 repeats. Three additional days in October were spent at the Madaket location where 155 birds were banded in 10 net-hours.

Increased effort brings Nantucket more in line with other coastal stations as shown by the number of net-hours in 1981 compared with those in 1980. However, the increase in birds is not proportionate to the increase in effort. On the other hand the number of species increased significantly. Interestingly enough, Black-capped Chickadee and Blue Jay were not among the 77 species captured at the Mothball Pines station.

Totals for some species were without precedent. For instance, 172 Red-breasted Nuthatches was an all time high for this station (the former high being 85 in 1975); likewise, 50 Black-throated Blue Warblers and 20 Yellow-breasted Chats were record breaking numbers. It was encouraging to have an increase in Catharus thrushes: 17 Swainson's compared with a maximum of 4 in any given year since 1974; 4 Gray-cheeked compared with a complete absence of this species since 1974 when 1 was banded. Of further interest were 4 Mourning and 1 Connecticut Warblers, both species having been conspicuously absent since the early days of this station.

Another all time high was the biggest daily catch of 272 new birds which occurred on 26 September. This day was preceded by two days of strong NW winds. On 24 September the wind was so strong it was impossible to open the nets and on 25 September the nets were open for 101 n.h. with 33 new birds banded. The Big Day dawned calm and overcast and the wind remained light easterly throughout the day. All 12 nets were open for 12 hours. Birds were netted steadily throughout the day until about 1600 — when numbers began to slack off. By the next day the wind had switched SW and 30 new birds were banded in 66 n.h.

Band number 1590-36042 was found in an owl pellet collected in the Nantucket State Forest in December 1981. This band was placed on a Yellow-rumped Warbler at the Mothball on 6 October 1981.

Kingston, Rhode Island 412-0713
Douglas Kraus

This station was operated in the same manner as in the past 9 years, with the nets opened before dawn and closed when activity had decreased to near zero. Some afternoon netting was done in November. For the years 1976-81 the birds/100 n.h. were: 121, 113, 65, 109, 98, and 74. The migration in 1981 was the third poorest in the past decade.

During the period from 7 August to 31 October 8 days were lost due to inclement weather. Numerous cold fronts passed through, but deposited few birds in the nets. The largest daily catch was 14 for September and 21 for October; numbers were about one-half the norm.

Most common species which nest locally were down significantly in numbers, viz. Wood Thrush 9 in 1981 (19 in 1980), Black-and-white Warbler 11 (24); Common Yellowthroat 27 (56); and American Redstart 15 (60). This may correlate with the local Gypsy Moth invasion.

There were 25 returns, but 17 of these involved species which are considered non-migrating. There were 81 repeats and no foreign returns.

Block Island, Rhode Island
Elise Lapham

The fall of 1981 was the best season at the Block Island station

since 1977. West and northwest winds started 21 September and blew intermittently until 20 October. There was little rain during that time. Peak banding days were 4-11 October. As usual, Yellow-rumped Warblers (285, with 647 more released unbanded due to lack of time and assistants), Gray Catbirds (159), and White-throated Sparrows (111, compared with 56 in 1980) were the birds banded in greatest numbers. Surprisingly, Brown Creepers came next with 100 banded — twice as many as in any other year.

The following is a comparison of several species banded over the last five years:

	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977
Brown Creeper	100	24	50	12	20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	71	34	3	0	28
Swainson's Thrush	41	12	24	23	25
Red-eyed Vireo	75	65	78	37	43
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	64	26	10	12	10
Common Yellowthroat	35	15	46	28	23
American Redstart	40	20	27	25	11
Scarlet Tanager	31	0	4	2	11
Cardinal	18	5	6	6	7

The nets were run for 45 days, not always successfully. There were 4 Saw-whet Owls in the nets on 5 October, but rain the rest of the week kept the nets closed until late in the day, reducing chances for catching others. Nets also had to be closed several times because of hawks.

There were no returns and no new species added. A Hooded Warbler and a Yellow-throated Vireo were rare catches.

Pine Siskins — 1982

The one bird name heard most often at the E.B.B.A. Annual Meeting was Pine Siskin. From all accounts, the winter of 1982 was The Season of the Siskin. A number of people expressed interest in what was happening with siskins throughout the Northeast.

Perhaps siskin banders would be interested in a tabulation of banding data. If so, please send a card or note to me with the following information:

Your name, banding location, and state, with lat./long.
Total number of siskins banded and, if known, total males and females.

Prefix numbers of bands used (i.e. 1560-595_). This will be useful to banders who recaptured siskins.

Perhaps we can find a pattern of some kind.

Mickie Mutchler
Box 212X, RD 1
Monticello, NY 12701

In Memoriam

It is with regret that we report the passing of Dr. Charles Blake, Dr. John Kennard, and Dr. Samuel Tipton. These men have contributed much to the ornithological world in general and the banding world in particular. Their participation in the functioning of Eastern Bird Banding Association will be missed.