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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

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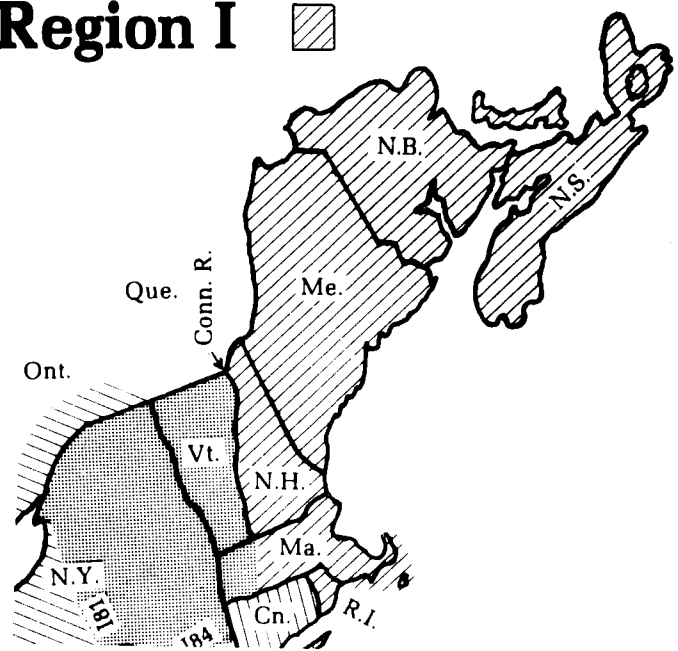
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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

Richard L. Ferren, Coordinator
Berkshire Community College
Pittsfield, MA 01201

For the fall of 1982, all stations reporting in 1981 did so except Block Island, and a new report is welcomed from Appledore Island.

In overall terms, the season was judged by most stations as average or worse, and dull. In addition to the average or low overall numbers of birds captured at many stations, low ratios of immatures at the Kingston station may be a reflection of poor nesting success due to an 11 in (28 cm) rainstorm in early June along the southern New England coast. After a record blast of cold northwest winds in the last days of August, little such stimulus occurred for much of the fall to push birds to coastal netting stations. Modest or poor flights of several sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Swainson's Thrushes, the two kinglets and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted at some stations, while Northern Waterthrushes, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and Warbling Vireos showed gains. The Spruce-Budworm-related Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers, so well represented in the reports of several years ago, were continuing last year's low numbers except for good numbers of Cape May Warblers at Rockport. In general, few notable trends or major fluctuations were reported. Such incursive



species as chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatch were in average or low numbers, and Blue Jays put on a feeble migration compared with the previous year.

Table 1 Region I Summary

	Port Clyde Maine	Appledore Is. Maine	Rockport Mass	Manomet Mass	Nantucket Mass	Kingston RI
Days of operation	12	12	89	65	49	77
Number of nets used	5-13.5	5	8	50	1-14	2-4
Total net-hours	2107	645	6082	29003	4656	1034
Largest daily catch	67	158	63	343	230	51
Birds banded, 1981	335	793	1472	4711	2789	768
Birds banded, 1980	1097	—	2222	4530	1967	565
Different species, 1981	38	56	75	98	83	64
Different species, 1980	56	—	79	96	77	57
Birds/100 n.h., 1981	15.8	127	24	16.2	60	74
Birds/100 n.h., 1980	27.5	—	35	15.8	65	74

Table 2. Summary of most common species caught

Port Clyde Maine	Appledore Is. Maine	Rockport Mass	Manomet Mass	Nantucket Mass	Kingston RI
32 Am Redstart	129 Red-eyed Vireo	221 Am Robin	918 Yel-rump Warb	1400 Yel-rump Warb	151 W-thr Sparrow
27 Bay-b Warb	96 N Waterthrush	132 W-thr Sparrow	684 Gray Catbird	268 Gray Catbird	80 Am Redstart
24 D-e Junco	86 Am Redstart	130 Gray Catbird	672 B-c Chickadee	127 Song Sparrow	67 Gray Catbird
22 N Waterthrush	49 C Yellowthr	117 House Finch	298 Am Robin	78 Am Redstart	45 D-e Junco
17 Song Sparrow	46 Veery	96 Song Sparrow	196 W-thr Sparrow	76 C Yellowthr	40 B-c Chickadee
17 B-and-w Warb	33 Gray Catbird	70 B-c Chickadee	170 Red-eyed Vireo	53 Savannah Sp	40 C Yellowthr
17 Yel-rump Warb	29 Song Sparrow	52 Tree Sparrow	147 Tuft Titmouse	52 Red-eyed Vireo	35 Yel-rump Warb
15 W-thr Sparrow	29 Y-b Flycatcher	53 Starling	100 Am Redstart	47 W-thr Sparrow	25 Ovenbird
14 B-c Chickadee	26 Magnolia Warb	38 D-e Junco	99 Song Sparrow	41 Blackpoll Warb	22 B-and-w Warb
14 Am Robin		36 Yel-rump Warb	92 Blackpoll Warb	33 D-e Junco	18 R-s Towhee
		36 Cape May Warb			
		36 N Waterthrush			

Port Clyde, Maine 435-0691
Margery Plymire

This is the third year of banding at Port Clyde. Netting was done on 37 days between 1 August and 24 October: 21 days in August, 7 in September, and 9 in October. Nets were in the same locations as in previous years. The station was closed on 14 days due to rain and on 2 additional days due to wind. October showed the greatest decline in birds per net-hour with only 10.99/100 n.h. as compared with 71.47 in 1981 and 20.75 in 1980.

The largest daily catch was 67 on 29 September. Of these, 15 were Bay-breasted Warblers and 15 were American Redstarts. Numbers of the most common species in 1981 were down sharply as noted below:

Species	1982	1981	1980
Am Redstart	32	35	10
Bay-br Warb	27	33	63
D-e Junco	24	221	7
N Waterthrush	22	52	13
Song Sparrow	17	15	0
B-and-w Warb	17	72	16
Yel-rump Warb	17	120	39
W-thr Sparrow	15	64	18
B-c Chickadee	14	26	81
Am Robin	14	94	24

Blackpoll Warblers continued to decline from 21 in 1980 to 11 in 1981 to only 6 in 1982. While the significance of these figures is unclear, 1982 was visibly a year of non-migration at Port Clyde. Warbler flights were noted but missed on 13, 23, and 24 August when the station was closed, but no real flights were noted in September or October.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet, banded as HY M on 21 August 1981, returned 20 October 1982.



Appledore Island, Isles of Shoals
York Co., Maine 425-0703
David W. Holmes

Appledore is a 95-acre island, the largest of the Isles of Shoals, lying 6 mi (9.6 km) SE of Kittery Point, Maine. Banding is done as part of the educational program run by the Shoals Marine Laboratory and is currently a short-term intensive project during each migration season. For most of this season, 5 mist nets were set in fairly dense growth with a canopy height of 10-15 ft (3-4.6 m). For the last 2½ days, an additional 2½ nets were operated in a small boggy area. Banding was done generally from dawn until dark on the 12 days from 29 August through noon 9 September.

In addition to the birds banded, 6 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded. There was one return, a Black-capped Chickadee, banded in fall of 1981 and two from the spring banding of 1982. No foreign birds were captured. The biggest flight day was 8 September with 158 new birds. 93 birds were captured on both 2 and 5 September.

Among the most common birds in Table 2, all were within

normal catch limits except the Veerys. All the Veerys caught from 1975 to 1981 totalled 49 compared with this year's 46. Red-eyed Vireos were still very high in numbers but substantially lower than 1981's 175.

Our most surprising bird was the AHY M Prothonotary Warbler banded 31 August, absolutely bulging with fat. The most unexpected catch was the HY U Semipalmated Plover banded on 7 September.

Special thanks go to the Shoals Marine Laboratory administration (Dr. J.B. Heiser and Dr. Arthur Borror) and staff, to Mrs. Elisabeth W. Phinney, who started the project in the early 70's and continues to help all she can, and to Jim Covert for providing much field help and discussion during the 3 days he was on the Island.

Whale Cove, Rockport, MA 423-0703
Russell T. Norris

The Whale Cove Station has been in operation for 7 years. In 1982 nets were opened on 89 days between 12 August and 15 November. Several traps were used on some days, particularly when netting was not possible. In addition to the birds netted, an additional 240 were taken in traps. There were 151 repeats. Although the net-hours were only slightly less, the new birds/n.h. were down 34%. The following table shows the birds netted, net-hours, and birds per 100 net-hours for the past 6 years.

Aug-Nov Year	Number Banded	Net Hours	Birds per 100 n.h.
1977	1386	5028	28
1978	1861	5196	36
1979	1720	4188	41
1980	2242	5195	43
1981	2222	6276	35
1982	1472	6082	24

The month of August on Cape Ann was the coolest in several years, but much of the fall was unseasonably warm with the first killing frost on 11 November. There were no northwest winds from late August until early October except for a light flow on 17 September and again on the 19th. Rain or drizzle occurred frequently throughout the period, making netting difficult or impossible. There were no really big days, but northwest winds did produce small waves of migrants on 29 and 31 August, 2-5 October, 18-19 October, and 23 October. The top day was 29 August with only 63 birds banded.



The most common species banded in the fall of 1982 are shown in the following table, along with the totals of these species netted in the previous 5 years.

	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977
Am Robin	221	364	62	131	158	44
W-th Sparrow	132	195	165	248	305	138
Gray Catbird	130	196	164	237	221	114
House Finch	117	191	175	235	182	156
Song Sparrow	96	111	154	96	135	110
B-c Chickadee	70	156	258	67	60	69
Tree Swallow	52	35	117	70	8	17
Starling	53	—	—	—	—	—
D-e Junco	38	36	61	15	88	32
Y-r Warbler	36	162	302	111	73	239
Cape May Warb	36	7	8	24	41	7
N Waterthrush	36	29	20	22	25	15

Many of the fall migrants were down in numbers, some drastically. Rather than compare with 1981, a very good year, the 1982 species totals are compared with the average of the previous 5 years. The most notable drop was in the Yellow-rumped Warbler, usually one of the most common fall migrants. This species was down 80%, continuing the decline of 1981 from an all-time high of 302 in 1980. Although waves of Yellow-rumps were reported elsewhere in eastern Massachusetts, there was no noticeable movement in the Whale Cove area with only 36 being captured. Other species showing drops of 90% were the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-crowned Sparrow, and Swainson's Thrush. However, in the case of the sapsucker and the sparrow, the drops can be attributed in part to the abnormally high years of 1981 and 1980, respectively. The Lincoln's Sparrow was also down — 75% — and the American Goldfinch down 60%. Neither the Blue Jay nor the Black-capped Chickadee had good flights in the fall of 1982 — both species being down 50%. Both kinglets were also in the same category. The Northern Mockingbird, down 50%, was back to near normal numbers following the very high number of bandings in 1981. Other species dropping 50% in 1982 were the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Purple Finch. The Red-eyed Vireo numbers were down 40% from the 5-year average and much more below the good year of 1981. The breeding population of Yellow Warblers was low, and this was reflected in a 40% drop in fall bandings of this species. Three abundant species — White-throated Sparrow, Gray Catbird, and House Finch — were down 36%, 30%, and 36% respectively.

Six species which nearly always appear during the fall migration did not occur at all in 1982. These were the Eastern Phoebe, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Phildelphia Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Savannah Sparrow, and Tree Sparrow. The latter, however, did arrive later in much reduced numbers.

When compared with the 1977-1981 period, a few species showed increases during the fall months of 1982. Downy Woodpeckers were captured at double the average of the previous years as were White-breasted Nuthatches. It was a very good year for the Barn Swallow, the Veery, and the Chipping Sparrow. All 3 were taken in far greater numbers than ever before. The Empidonax flycatchers (Yellow-bellied, Least, and "Traill's") were up considerably. The American Robin and Tufted Titmouse did not occur in numbers as in the big flights of 1981 but were up substantially from the average of the previous years. There are only 2 breeding warblers in

Whale Cove and, unlike the Yellow Warbler, the Common Yellowthroat was up 30% in 1982. Migrating warblers, except for the Yellow-rump, were up about 25%, with the Cape May and Northern Waterthrush leading the way.

The fall migration of 1982 was generally lackluster with no spectacular waves of even the common species. However, 2 Warbling Vireos, a new species for the station, and 2 Orange-crowned Warblers deserve special mention.



Manomet Bird Observatory, MA 415-0703
Trevor L. Lloyd-Evans & Christina T. Dowd
Staff Biologists

In general, 1982 was rather an "average" fall. During the 65 days of operation this season, a total of 7,348 birds of 98 species were handled, including 4,711 new bandings, 2,573 repeats or returns, and 64 unbanded. Our 50 nets, in the same sites as in previous years, were open for a total of 29,003 net-hours from 1 August to 15 November. Nets were open during all daylight hours and traps were not used during this season to avoid biasing comparative totals/n.h. The vagaries of weather seemed to bring our few periods of clear skies and northwest winds only on weekends this fall, so that most of our 200+ bird-days fell on Mondays and Tuesdays. These were: 211 on 30 August; 201 on 6 September; 229 on 28 September; 343 on 4 October (the maximum); 227 on 5 October; 230 on 18 October; and 227 on 19 October. (Totals include repeats.)

Season	No. banded	Net hours	Birds/100 n.h.
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
1 Aug-15 Nov 1980	7,474	36,589	20.4
1 Aug-15 Nov 1981	4,530	28,757	15.8
1 Aug-15 Nov 1982	4,630	29,003	16.2

(a) **Increasing species:** For the second autumn in a row, Red-eyed Vireos were caught in record numbers. This fall's 170 birds banded was 21% above the previous high of 139 in 1981. Tufted Titmice also continued to show signs of increasing. The number banded this fall (147) was lower than last year's peak of 368 but still higher than any other fall prior to 1981. The number of Black-capped Chickadees banded this fall (672) was similar to last fall's (698), although these are both low (-66%) compared with the peak of 1980 (2,531).

(b) **Decreasing species:** We are somewhat at a loss to explain the extremely low number of Blue Jays netted this fall (23),

especially after the healthy number caught in the spring of 1982 (181). This fall, the Massachusetts nut crop was reported to be a poor one; thus, we expected to band more than the usual (ca. 100) fall migrants. Blackpoll Warblers continued to decline, to 73% below the average for the falls of 1976-1981. We banded 92 Blackpolls this fall — the lowest total since comparable coverage started in 1969. Considered as a group, northern breeding sparrows continued the previous 6-year low, 38% below the mean for 1972-1976. Similarly, the total number of *Catharus* thrushes banded (101) indicates that they are at least holding their own, if not increasing. We did band the largest number of Veerys (32) since 1976, although the number of Swainson's Thrushes (22) was the lowest in 10 years.

(c) **Less frequent species:** The first fall Olive-sided Flycatcher banded since 1974 and the 3 fall Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are species we normally handle only in spring. The 13 Warbling Vireos and 3 Golden-winged Warblers were unusually good for MBO, and we banded 4 Winter Wrens, a species not caught in 1981.

Nantucket, MA

Edith Andrews

In the fall of 1982 there was extensive coverage at both main banding locations on the island, i.e.: Mothball Pines and Ice Pond Lot, Madaket. Banding at Mothball ran from 29 August through 8 October; at Ice Pond from 10 September through 30 October. Mothball is a pine woods located between a fresh water pond and the ocean and adjoining a barrier beach on the south side of the island. Ice Pond is located on the edge of a fresh water pond in the middle of the island. The latter includes cover of dense brush on both upland and swamp and a few scattered pines and maples.

The Mothball proved disappointing compared with last year. The same net lanes were used with practically the same coverage, but the birds were not there. We did not have the NW winds to bring them in. A total of 444 or 26 birds/100 n.h. were banded at Mothball in 1982 compared with 1812 or 60 birds/100 n.h. in 1981. Four days were spent at the Bartlett Farm where 177 new birds were banded, including a Blue Grosbeak.

At Ice Pond, new net lanes were cut and a maximum of 14 nets were used. This location was manned by Erma J. Fisk, 10

September through 8 October. A total of 1357 new birds were banded in 2743 net-hours, at the rate of 49 birds/100 n.h. During this period, a Connecticut Warbler, new for this location, was banded. Also of interest was a Clay-colored Sparrow, 2 Orange-crowned Warblers, and an unprecedented 36 Red-eyed Vireos. The biggest daily catch occurred at Ice Pond on 7 October. An SOS was sent out and the Mothball crew went to assist. Of the 230 banded that day, 210 were Yellow-rumps.

Banding continued at Ice Pond through 30 October. An additional 821 new birds were banded, of which 676 were Yellow-rumps, with another 698 Yellow-rumps released unbanded for lack of assistance.

There were 12 returns - all resident species - and 111 repeats.

Kingston, RI 412-0713

Douglas Kraus

This station operated in the same manner as in the past 10 years, with nets opened at dawn and closed at 1000 hours unless there was still activity at the nets. For the years 1977-82, the birds/100 n.h. were 113, 65, 109, 98, 74, and 74, respectively.

The migration here was poor. Less than 3 birds were banded on each of 7 mornings. With mild weather, banding in November and early December was very successful — 153/100 n.h. - using corn as bait. Averaging the data for August through October, the birds/100 n.h. was 66. Ten days were lost due to inclement weather. Peaks in daily bandings were minor and apparently not related to cold front passage.

Some local species had a poor nesting season, as indicated by the ratio of adults to immatures banded — viz. Gray Catbird 7/14 for August, Veery 6/10, Worm-eating Warbler 4/1, and Least Flycatcher 3/0. For the second year, the number of Wood Thrushes banded was down — 4 in 1982 vs. 9 in 1981 and 19 in 1980. The defoliation by Gypsy Moths this year was much more severe than last and doubtless affected adversely the nesting success of some local species. Some species, however, rebounded from the lows of last year: American Redstart, 80 in 1982 vs. 15 in 1981; Common Yellowthroat, 40 vs. 27; Ovenbird 25 vs. 6; and Black-and-white Warbler, 22 vs. 11.

There were 30 returns with 23 involving non-migratory species and 107 repeats. On 7 October, a Tufted Titmouse was recovered here which had been banded by Mrs. M.R. Webb in Hingham, MA on 6 October 1981.

Birds of Central Pennsylvania

Merrill Wood has completed the third edition of *Birds of Central Pennsylvania*. The enlarged pamphlet covers the State College Region — a radius of 40 km (25 mi) from Old Main on the campus of the Pennsylvania State University.

For information, direct inquiries to: Dr. David L. Pearson, The Pennsylvania State University, 312 Mueller Laboratory, University Park, PA 16802.

Please enclose a self-addressed U.S. Postcard for current list and mail charges.



We wish to remind you that *Introduction to Bird Banding Techniques* by Frederick S. Schaeffer is still available from: Tom Mutchler, RD 1, Box 210, Forestburgh, NY 12777, at \$3.50 ppd. Please make checks payable to: Eastern Bird Banding Association. Outside of the U.S., please use International money order or its equivalent.