

2000

Atlantic Flyway Review: Northeast Coastal Region I - Fall 1999

North American Bird Bander

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ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW:

Northeast Coastal Region I – Fall 1999

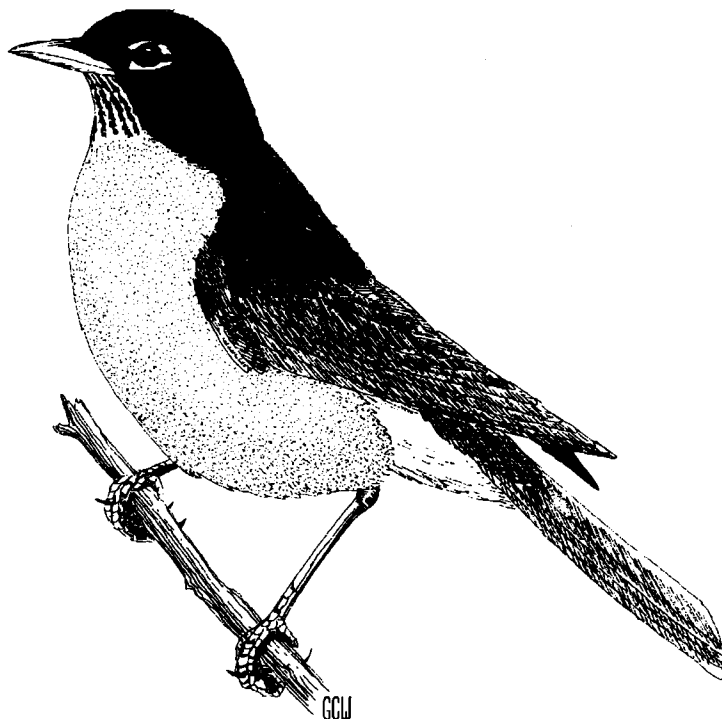
Tracey Dean, Regional Coordinator
Huntsman Marine Science Centre
1 Lower Campus Road, St. Andrews,
New Brunswick, Canada E5B 2L7

This report welcomes back Peter Homann, Brian Dalzell, and David Holmes. The reasons for absentia are varied—in the past Peter had been unable to extend his stay north into the migration season, Brian could not settle on a banding location, and David was swamped with other work. David has kept his promise by submitting a report for last year along with 1999's summary.

Sadly, Doug Kraus, a long-time contributor to bird banding, died in March. Doug had been an active bander for more than 40 years, with much of his time devoted to the Kingston Wildlife Refuge. To the benefit of all he has left land and money for the creation of a wildlife refuge and avian research center with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. Descriptions of the 1999 fall banding season vary

from Block Island's "Wow! ...just like the old days" to Island Beach which grumbled that numbers were the "lowest since 1965." Shoals Marine Lab stated that the migration was "normally peculiar," which they luckily explain. Typically, the weather gets the praise or blame for the high and low numbers.

In this season of ups and downs, five stations happily captured over 45 birds/100nh, with late migrants making up most of the catch. Days of over 100 birds seemed to be more common, but the day of over 1000 birds experienced at Island Beach State Park is unique (Table 1). As I look down the lists of top ten species and ponder the variation from station to station, I have decided I would not mind catching 76 Fox Sparrows or 296 Blackpoll Warblers but am glad I do not get 165 robins (Table 2).



Computer Graphic by
George West

Table 1. Fall 1999 Region 1 Summary.									
	Laurentians PQ	St. Andrews NB	Long Eddy NB	Vermont Inst VT	Bon Portage Is. NS	Seal Is. NS	Appledore Is. ME	Block Is. RI	Is. Beach S.P. NJ
First Day	25 July	1 August	17 August	2 August	12 August	25 September	15 August	31 August	30 August
Last Day	19 August	30 October	31 October	2 November	28 October	26 October	1 October	12 December	8 November
Days Operated	25	19	35	63	38	18	-	-	45
No. Nets Used	6 - 9	5 - 13	3 - 7	9 - 20	10 - 15	10 - 15	9 - 10	na	4.5 - 22.5
Total Net Hours	1823	764	1050	7088.75	4758.75	1162.25	5076.1	4588	3608.67
Birds Banded 1998	na	828	na	1863	2179	456	2260	981	4786
Birds Banded 1999	174	513	728	1807	2330	444	1997	2288	4853
Diff. Species 1998	na	54	na	86	81	57	79	68	90
Diff. Species 1999	27	52	68	78	71	43	81	82	93
Birds/100nh 1998	na	61	na	27	63	34	43	34	147
Birds/100nh 1999	10	67	69.3	25.5	49	38	39	50	134.5
Largest Daily Catch	18	49	113	106	120	75	142	208	1148
Date of LDC	29 July	4 October	29 September	1 October	10 October	6 October	26 September	12 October	12 October
% Hatch Year (**)	79%	83%	na	73%	86%	77%	92%	na	93%
% Hatch Year (***)		80%							79%

(**) - HY% calculated as number of HY/total number of known-age birds.

(***) - HY% calculated as number of HY/total number of captures.

Table 2. Region 1 Top Ten Species from Each Station, 1999.										
	Laurentians PQ	St. Andrews NB	Long Eddy NB	Vermont Inst. VT	Bon Portage Is. NS	Seal Is. NS	Appledore Is. ME	Block Is. RI	Island Beach S.P. NJ	
1	29 REVI	53 WTSP (1)	77 WTSP	373 WTSP (1)	582 MYWA (2)	177 BLPW	231 REVI (2)	492 MYWA (1)	943 GCKI (1)	
2	25 BAWW	41 AMGO	71 AMGO	165 AMRO (2)	296 BLPW (4)	59 GCKI (1)	186 GRCA (6)	439 GRCA (2)	458 WTSP (9)	
3	18 MAWA	38 MAWA (6)	52 SOSP	112 HETH (6)	144 GCKI (1)	23 RCKI	153 NOWA (1)	148 WTSP (7)	420 GRCA (3)	
4	15 BTNW	29 NAWA (4)	45 MYWA	105 SOSP (7)	119 COYE (7)	20 SSHA (10)	128 WTSP	130 GCKI (3)	377 BRGR (8)	
5	10 BCCH	28 NOPA (10)	44 SCJU	71 CEDW (6)	88 AMRE (6)	17 SCJU	100 RBNU	105 BLPW	359 SCJU (5)	
6	8 MYWA	28 MYWA (3)	38 YSFL	66 COYE (5)	88 TRFL	17 MYWA (6)	99 AMRE (3)	76 REVI (4)	352 MYWA (2)	
7	7 CAWA	23 RCKI (7)	38 REVI	63 SCJU (28)	77 REVI (3)	17 WTSP (3)	91 COYE (5)	75 BRGR	263 COYE (6)	
8	8 NAWA	22 COYE (5)	36 PUF1	56 GRCA (4)	76 FOSP	13 BRGR	79 BLPW (7)	66 HETH (8)	228 RCKI (4)	
9	6 BLBW	21 BCCH	26 COYE	52 MYWA (9)	74 BAWW (5)	12 BOCH	71 CEDW (8)	57 COYE (5)	189 SOSP (10)	
10	5 AMRO	20 AMRE (9)	25 BCCH	51 REVI (8)	77 SOSP (3)	10 SOSP (4)	56 SOSP	54 RCKI (9)	147 AMRE (7)	
	5 CSWA									

SW – Laurentian Mountains**455-0743**

Quebec, Canada

Peter Homann (bander)

My last contribution to the Region I Atlantic Flyway Review was in 1995. In the subsequent three years, my visits north to our summer cottage in Quebec were either short or outside of any migratory activity. Finally in 1999, I enjoyed a lengthy stay which extended into the migration period.

As on previous occasions, mist nets were placed in alder and sweet-gale shrubbery on the shores of a lake, and in natural openings of the adjacent cedar-fir-birch forest as well as under power lines along a road.

Two decades ago, I could count on a flock of warblers, nuthatches, and chickadees to visit the medium-sized trees and shrubbery along the lakeshore, but now they have become rare and unpredictable. Nevertheless, in 1999 the overall netting success was quite good, partly due to a crop of dogwood berries (*Cornus alternifolia*) near two netting lanes. Owing to the lure of these berries, the Red-eyed Vireo made the top of the most commonly banded species list.

Highlights included the recapture of four Black-capped Chickadees banded in 1998 and the antics of two young Sharp-shinned Hawks. The two fledglings entertained us with their incessant shrieking as they chased their parents. On one occasion one of the young hawks flew into a net and left behind a plucked Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

St. Andrews Banding Station**450-0670**

New Brunswick, Canada

Tracey Dean (bander)

Eventually, the St. Andrews Banding Station will be able to operate everyday, but not quite yet. This year I managed to find time to open the nets on only 19 days, as "real work" commitments got in the way. Five hundred thirteen birds were banded in 1999, which is well below the number captured in the last few years. But the 67 birds per 100 net hours was the second highest since 1992. The potential for a great season was there. September was a particularly trying time as kinglets, sparrows, and "Myrtles" moved through in large numbers, but I

Jul. - Sep. 2000

could not get to the nets. I look enviously at the long list of banders and assistants some stations have. Help!

Despite the lack of banding time, Gray Catbird and American Goldfinch numbers were up. This may be due to the increased cover around some nets and the expansion of the knapweed patch.

Eastern Wood-Pewee was the only new fall species added this year from the 52 different species captured. Other season highlights included a wandering Yellow-breasted Chat and the station's second White-crowned Sparrow, "Chippy" and Winter Wren

Chickadee 1930-66898 was not recaptured this year.

Long Eddy Point**443-0664**

Fundy Bird Observatory

Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick

Brian Dalzell (bander)

Assistants: Stephanie Grossman, Levi Moore, Tamara Enz, Alain Clavette.

This was a pilot migration-monitoring project to confirm Long Eddy Point as being suitable for a permanent monitoring presence. No banding took place in 1998 because of funding shortfalls. Our last banding report came from Long Pond in 1997 under the name of the Grand Manan Bird Observatory. No longer! The observatory is now locally managed, under a new name, and under the auspices of the Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Station, a non-profit since 1981.

Long Eddy sits high atop a 200-foot bluff, looking out over miles of blue and often choppy Bay of Fundy seas. The prevalence of larger birds at the point, such as flicker, robin, cuckoo, blackbirds, and Blue Jay, was the main difference from the sanctuary site, where smaller migrants predominated in the heavy alders. During the trial 10-week banding period, it appeared there was sufficient variety and volume of migrants at Long Eddy Point to make monitoring profitable

Notable bandings of hatch-year birds included a male Blue-winged Warbler, two Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a Pine Warbler, a female Eastern

Towhee, male Baltimore Oriole, Indigo Bunting, and an after-second-year Northern Mockingbird. An impressive flight of flickers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers struck from due west in late September and early October. As many as five cuckoos were in the banding areas on some days during that period. Unbanded notables were a male Red-bellied Woodpecker, a late Great Crested Flycatcher, two Field Sparrows, several Dickcissels, two Blue Grosbeaks, an injured Eastern Meadowlark (broken leg), and male and female Northern Cardinal eight weeks apart.

Bon Portage Island 432-0654

Seal Island 432-0660

Atlantic Bird Observatory (ABO)

Nova Scotia, Canada

Trina Fitzgerald, Bruce Rodrigues (banders)

Assistants: Over 1 month: Lauren Attanas, Frances Bennett, Dennis Brannen, Lionel Leston, Taber Loree, Joe Nocera, Mike Peckford, Wendy Turner. Two weeks: Beth Cameron, Wanda Fitzgerald, Adele Mullie, Tina Newbury, Dave Shutler. One week: Angela Bond, Danielle deGraaf, Max de Vries, Sarah Glinz, Terri Groh, Ryan Leudy, Pam Mills, Sarah Spencer, Martin Wernaart.

The ABO started monitoring the 1999 fall migration on Bon Portage 12 August. We were excited to be back and ready to go—bring on the birds! Our first month was pretty steady. The local breeders were around (Fox Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Green Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Song Sparrow) when we first arrived on Bon Portage Island and slowly the migrants trickled through. Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, "Trail's" Flycatcher, and Yellow Warbler were some of the early migrants. A few early Myrtle Warblers were spotted on 18 and 20 August, but they were not seen again until 12 September. Another two weeks passed before the next Myrtle Warbler showed up, and this time they meant business. A total of 49 were banded on 27 September and during the next two and a half weeks, over 500 were banded. Myrtle Warbler migration was in full operation!

There were several days when over 100 birds were banded and our peak day of 120 birds occurred on 10 October. Overall, a total of 2330 birds were

banded and 344 were retrapped. Treats included Indigo Bunting, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Warbling Vireo, and White-eyed Vireo.

Seal Island opened its nets on 24 September. We were late getting started, but had a good season nonetheless. Blackpoll Warblers were in prime performance. On 5 October, the trees were dotted with them. They stayed for two days and by 7 October only a few stragglers remained. Our top banding day was 6 October when we caught 75 birds (only 9 species though) and saw approximately 40 species on the island. But 12 October was even better, when an amazing fallout occurred. Birds were observed continuously throughout the day flying in from the ocean. Once on the island they fed furiously, too exhausted to fly away even when approached. We estimated 69 different species on the island that day. The curious point about this event is that on the same day Bon Portage was quiet and they estimated only 38 different species—barely an average day! The value of offshore islands during migration was never more evident.

Each year the ABO crew are welcome to participate in a traditional owl-banding weekend that is held on Bon Portage Island. It is a great way to end the migration-monitoring season. The past two years have been unsuccessful due to the weather, but this year was a different story. Five N. Saw-whet Owls were banded. Next fall the ABO plans to expand their efforts in hopes of catching a few more of these evening creatures!

Vermont Institute

of Natural Science

433-0723

Woodstock, VT

Brandt Ryder, Chris Rimmer, Steve Faccio, Dan Lambert, Kent McFarland. (banders)

Assistants: Angela Brill, Gabe Colbeck, Julia Feder, Ted Gaine, Libby Hillhouse, Julianne Newton, Mark Pickering, Sherry Pierce, Jim Goetz, Gabriel Willow, Julia Lankton, and Serena Griffin

Our banding station is located on the Bragdon Nature Preserve at the headquarters of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) in Woodstock, VT, a non-profit, membership-based research and educational organization. Our net lanes are located in early successional/second

growth habitat, around a small (approx. 2 ac) pond. The vegetation consists of a variety of shrubs and saplings, including autumn olive, blackberry, buckthorn, willows, maples and dogwoods, with a broken overstory of sugar maple, aspen, black cherry and white ash. The station banded its 40,000th bird during the 1999 banding season, our 19th consecutive year of data collection.

During the fall season (2 August – 2 November) we banded 1807 birds during 7088.75 net hours (63 banding mornings) for a capture rate of 25.5 birds/100 net hours. This was a slight decrease (1.5 birds/100nh) from last year's rate. With a similar amount of effort, we captured 132 fewer birds in September 1999 (584), than in September 1998 (716), but caught 93 more birds in October 1999 (789) than in October 1998 (696). While fall numbers of American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, Gray Catbird, and Myrtle Warbler were relatively "normal," it was a poor year for American Goldfinch (just six birds), Wood Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, and American Tree and White-crowned sparrows. Several species rebounded slightly from low captures in 1998, including Scarlet Tanager, Slate-colored Junco, and Baltimore Oriole. House Finch captures continue to be well below average, as the species apparently recovers from the effect of conjunctivitis. As a group, sparrows again accounted for a good portion of our fall captures, with White-throated, Song, Lincoln's, and Swamp sparrows making up 29% (520) of our total fall catch. Most of this total (373) was made up of White-throats, our second highest total ever for our most commonly captured species.

With a few exceptions, the fall migration of warblers was down from last year with a total of 296 individuals of 21 species captured compared to 338 individuals of 24 species in 1998. Modest increases were noted for Blackpoll, Tennessee, Wilson's, and Magnolia warblers, while marked decreases were seen in Canada, Black-throated Blue, and Myrtle warblers. Interesting captures included two Connecticut and two Orange-crowned warblers.

While captures of Hermit Thrush were down over last year's record high of 157, the total (112) was still well above station norm. Swainson's Thrush had a strong year, while Wood Thrush captures dropped from our second-highest total ever in 1998 to below-

average numbers in 1999. Red-eyed, Blue-headed, and Philadelphia vireo captures were slightly above station averages. Other highlights of the fall season include five Black-billed Cuckoo during September (our highest total ever), a hatch-year Northern Shrike on 21 October, a hatch-year Pileated Woodpecker on 27 October, and a recapture of a Chestnut-sided Warbler that we banded in 1993.

In addition to presenting banding demonstrations to school groups, summer camps and Elderhostel groups, many individuals visited the station informally to learn from our research staff and enjoy a close-up look at songbirds. We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and hope their experiences at the banding station were as valuable to them as they were to us.

Shoals Marine Lab Banding Station

425-0703

Appledore Island, Maine

Dorothy Fitch, Anthony Hill, Mac McKenna, Sara Morris, John Munier, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright (banders)

Assistants: Andre Breton, Alex Chang, Scott Cronenweth, Carol Cushing, Jen Dailey, Terry Goodhue, Randy Harrison, Dan Hayward, Cliff Horrigan, Susan Isabel, Joyce Marshall, Charlie Muise, Gail Page, Kathie Palfy, Stephanie & Bill Parkinson, Martha Stauffer, Mark Suomala, Gerry Tilley, Drew Trested & Jo Weldon

Fall 1998: The Shoal Lab Banding Station operated as usual (meaning dawn to dark with 9 to 10 nets) for 47 days, from 15 August through 30 September. We lost no full days to weather and actually enjoyed passage of several cold fronts with appropriately timed wind patterns, so the season felt more like what we remember from the 1980s. Both species and numbers were third highs, but we did not band into October, which we had done in both years with higher totals. Yet, this was a really neat season!

Excitements included four 100+ bird days: 137 on 2 September, 114 on 12 September, 130 on 24 September and 151 on 29 September (last year we barely eked out one day of 103). Further excitement included our first ever Sora, two Hooded, one Kentucky, and an Orange-crowned warbler. A House Wren dropped by a full month early, and we banded three Indigo Buntings in one day! We have

never had more than one in an entire fall before. The four Golden-winged Warblers on successive days were also definitely unusual. We had caught them in only five previous falls since 1981. Least and Yellow-bellied flycatchers seem to be continuing a downward trend, that is more disturbing than the birds on the next list: Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted warblers. We know the warblers are associated with spruce budworms and the last big outbreak of budworms was in the middle and late 70s. The flycatchers don't present us with easy answers, but we surely used to catch lots more of them than we do now.

Fall 1999: The Shoals Lab Banding Station operated from 15 August through 1 October, with a two-day break for Tropical Storm Floyd in mid September. Just for fun here are three contrasting comparisons between 1998 and 1999.

	1998	1999
# of days with south winds	22	23
# of days with west winds	36	21
# of new birds	2260	1997

The season was normally peculiar. Birds per net-hour was our second lowest, while total species was our third highest. The biggest surprise were Red-breasted Nuthatches; they flew this year which is a year earlier than expected.

The reason for our doldrums was simple—the weather stagnated during the first 10 days of September, which often produces our best movements of Neotropical migrants. This year, the very light south and east winds must have moved the birds we normally catch elsewhere. Nineteen of our 28 species of warblers arrived in well-below-average numbers (as did four flycatcher species). Excitement came with our first fall Louisiana Waterthrush and our first fall Clay-colored Sparrow. One hundred+ days were recorded on 12, 26, and 27 September, with 99 birds on 19 September. Five days of over 50 in August were pleasant and expected. The station's 60,000th bird was logged 26 September (this includes spring bandings as well). We caught only 12 returns, no foreign birds, and no new species for the station. Our same season

retrap rate was high at just over 20%; this maybe due partly to the best berry crop seen in a few years.

Block Island

Banding Station

411-0713

Rhode Island

Elise Lapham, Kim Gaffett, Scott Comings
(Banders)

Assistants: Penny Anderson & friends, Erica Anderson, Rick Wetzel, and the three Carrs: Susan, Mark & Sarah

WOW! What a year! Just like the "old days." The statistics of the high years of 1967-1976 have exceeded by far the statistics of every year since. However, this fall was a glimpse of the past, and it was great fun. Results from 1999 rank sixth in the station's history for the species captured (82), and eighth for individuals banded (2288). These are the best results since 1975 & 1976 respectively. Statistics are a little more confusing for birds/net-hour, but the table below shows that birds captured in 1999 is quite high compared to the average over the past 20 years.

Year	Average Net Hours	Average Birds/100 NH
1967-1979	3087	96
1980-1999	4269	36
1999	4588	50

Beyond the numbers, the birds and days of banding were great! These have left some wonderful images in our minds. One gray and chilly late afternoon when we opened the nets as a strong front passed, we were inundated with "fat" Blackpoll Warblers. Then there was the morning in late October when after much hoping we caught not one, but two N. Saw-whet Owls.

Little did we know that the season would round out with nine saw-whets, the most ever in one year. Other strong showings came from Winter Wren (22), Cardinal (28), Blackpoll Warbler (105), and Orange-crowned Warbler (3). We also captured our first Savannah Sparrow since 1985.

This year 100+ birds were recorded on four days. Top days were 26 September – 82 birds, 12

October – 208 birds, 13 October – 127 birds, 15 October – 178 birds, and 19 October – 113 birds. In a more usual year we have had one or two days of over 100 birds.

We also had some interesting return / recoveries. A Common Yellowthroat we banded in May 1993 appeared in our nets this year on 19 September; and a Myrtle Warbler banded on 4 October 1992 was recovered in North Carolina, 1 September 1999.

Most notable among the top ten species banded is the replacement of Dark-eyed Junco and Swamp Sparrow with Blackpoll Warbler and Brown Creeper (see Table 2).

Of course the leading question is: why was it such a good year? We do not know, but weather is certainly a contributor. It was a glorious fall, punctuated with waves of strong NW cold fronts at just the right time during late September and October. It was also a great year because of the help we had. We could not have banded so many birds without the dedicated help listed at the beginning of this section.

Let us hope 2000 also brings good birding weather.

Island Beach State Park **395-0740**
New Jersey
Mary Doscher, Eileen and Glenn Mahler, Robert McKinney, John, Ray and Marlene Miller, Robert Pantle, and Robert Yunick (banders)
Assistants: Doris McGovern and Chita McKinney.

During the fall 1999 banding season, eight banders operated banding stations at five locations at the Island Beach State Park, between 30 August and 8 November. One or more of these stations were in operation for 45 out of the 71-day period. There were two banding days in August, 14 in September, 26 in October and three in November. Three stations operated simultaneously on nine days, two stations were active on 15 days, and on the remaining 21 days only a single station was open.

In the discussion that follows, "prior year" averages are based on the twelve-year period 1987-1998.

Once again our recent history of below-average numbers of birds continues. Our total of 4853 Jul. - Sep. 2000

bandings (a few birds higher than last years 4786) while certainly better than the abominable lows of 1996/97 (2531 and 2947) was still 26% below average. On a net-hour basis, this year's 1.34 birds per net-hour were down a bit from last years 1.47 but still 21% below average. The following chart shows both our raw and per-nh bandings over the comparison period.

Bob Yunick provides the following interesting analysis of the disappointing banding results during his week at Island Beach (10-26 October). "The 0.833 birds/nh is the lowest since 0.60 in 1965 and well below my 35-year average of 2.25 birds/nh.... The 24 species is an all-time low for any visit in September or October.... The cause appeared to be primarily weather. Once again, cold fronts did not have that traditional continental sweeping action from W to E or NW to SE. Distant low-pressure obstructions in the Atlantic (left-over remnants of an active hurricane season) prevented that kind of frontal passage. On several occasions, weather maps showed incoming weather sliding up the east coast from SE to NE, due to an obstructed flow of air between Central America and Africa. Interestingly, there were unusually adult-enriched age ratios for four species [during my week]. Golden-crowned Kinglet were 11% adult, Myrtle Warbler 22.5%, White-throated Sparrow 27.3%, and Slate-colored Junco 31.3%. Normally at IB, adults constitute at most 5 to 10%, sometimes only 2 to 5% of the banded population."

A "monster blitz" flight occurred on 12 October with a combined 1148 birds banded by three stations. Even with nets furled during the peak of the flight, the capture rate was 7.76 birds/nh. Five species (White-throated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Golden- and Ruby-crowned kinglets, and Myrtle Warbler) accounted for 81% of the captures. The following table summarizes the best days of the season:

Date	# of Stations Operating	# Birds	# Birds/nh
Sept. 19	2	267	2.87
Oct. 1	1	114	3.00
Oct. 7	3	358	1.73
Oct. 8	2	340	2.02
Oct. 12	3	1148	7.76
Oct. 15	2	256	6.40

Highlights included an American Woodcock, three N. Saw-whet Owls, a Bobolink, a Rusty Blackbird, two Grasshopper Sparrows, a Dicksissel, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (our first "official" capture of this newly split species) and a Junco x White-throated Sparrow hybrid. Only four species had above-average capture rates this year:

Blackpoll 57% above average, Brown Creeper +29%, Winter Wren +18%, and Veery +14%. Six species had capture rates that were less than half of average: Yellow-shafted Flicker (43%), Ovenbird (36%), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (35%), Eastern Phoebe (35%), Field Sparrow (29%), and Cape May Warbler (21%).



Founded in 1925

Western Regional News

Western Bird Banding Association 75th Annual Meeting 8 – 10 September 2000 Fairbanks, Alaska Sponsored by the Alaska Bird Observatory

The meeting opened on Friday with tours of Creamer's Refuge and the University of Alaska Museum followed by a barbecue, featuring wild game and salmon at the Refuge Visitor Center. After dinner Dr. Susan Sharbaugh, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, gave a fascinating slide presentation entitled "Baby it's cold outside! Overwintering strategies of small songbirds".

On Saturday banding started at the Refuge banding site at 0700 with a good flow of passerines captured in the Observatory's 30 nets set among birches at the peak of their fall color.

At 0900 the following workshops were presented at the Visitors Center.

MAPSPROG 3.0. Pilar Velez (The Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station CA

94956-1346). MAPS contributors will work on their 2000 MAPS data using MAPSPROG 3.0, a computer program created by The Institute for Bird Populations in conjunction with the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory.

Using Molt Limits for Ageing. Kenneth Burton (PO Box 716, Inverness, CA 94937). This workshop covered what molt limits are, how to identify them, and how to use them for aging birds.

How to give a good bird banding presentation. Andrea Swingley (Alaska Bird Observatory, PO Box 80505, Fairbanks, AK 99708). Whether for the general public, special groups, or school children, bird banding presentations are a useful method for encouraging environmental awareness, appreciation, and understanding.