

to become depleted. It amplifies to a sharp note of warning at the discovery of a proximate predator. It becomes calmly conversational when all is well in Cluck Duck's world.)

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WARBLER RETURNS AT ELDORA, NEW JERSEY  
By C. Brooke Worth

In EBBA News for Sept.-Oct. 1967, I reported on warbler banding at Eldora, N.J., during the previous spring. In 1968 I again attempted to net warblers in my woods, though on a diminished scale. In addition I exploited two nets extending into the edge of my salt meadows. The distribution of net-days in the two years was as follows:

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Forest	177	111
Meadows	<u>13</u>	<u>34</u>
Total	190	145

Thus in 1968, nets were in operation of 76 per cent as long as in 1967. However, the warbler catch was proportionately far smaller, the 17 birds of 1968 representing only 16 per cent as many as 1967's 105 birds. After making allowance for differences in the total net-times in the two years, it appears as if the 1968 warbler flight was only one-fifth as strong as in 1967.

A truly astonishing aspect of the small warbler catch was that five of the 17 birds (29.4%) were returns from the previous year. These were distributed as follows:

1. Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*): Twelve banded in the spring of 1967; one returned in 1968 (8.3%). This bird, a male, was caught originally on May 15 in forest net No. 3. It repeated once on July 24 in a ramp net over the salt meadows where it may have been breeding. In 1968 it returned on May 14 to the identical forest net.

2. Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*): Sixteen banded in the spring of 1967; two returned in 1968 (12.5%). These birds both repeated more than once in 1967 and were probably breeding in my woods. One of them again repeated several times after its first 1968 capture.

3. Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*): 22 banded in the spring of 1967; two returned in 1968 (9.1%). Both these birds are remarkable for having appeared only once in each year, as if they were transients. One was caught each time in forest net No. 1, while the other was taken in adjacent forest nets, Nos. 5 and 6. It seems scarcely possible that their travel routes could be that invariable. However, I saw no Black-and-White Warblers in my woods during the summer, and Stone (*Bird Studies at Old Cape May, 1937*) says that while the species "breeds occasionally just north of Cape May", it "cannot be regarded as a common summer resident anywhere in the peninsula". Thus these two individuals may indeed have been following a fairly narrow path to more distant destinations.

These records seemed remarkable enough to need no further bolstering. But on the contrary, I secured a return from a Yellowthroat of unknown age and sex, banded in the fall of 1967 and reappearing on exactly the same day, September 27, in 1968, as an adult male. This was one of only four Yellowthroats banded in the previous fall, a return rate of 25%.

Such figures approach the range of returning Kirtland's Warblers to the breeding ground (Berger and Radabaugh, *Bird-Banding* 39, July 1968, pp. 161-186), although 85 per cent of those birds were not re-netted but were recognized by colored bands. I feel that when a stationary net begins to duplicate the performance of roving eyes, it can only mean that the birds do a great deal of roving themselves, i.e., they do not pursue a straight migratory trajectory through the forest, but quarter back and forth so that the nets in effect do a wide sweeping job.

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