



Atlantic Flyway Review



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Edited by Bruce Adams

Region IV of Atlantic Flyway Review consists of five stations, all in New Jersey. These are Island Beach, Mariedor, Ship Bottom, Cape May, and Stonybrook Watershed.

Two of these stations had negative reports for 1970. George Hitchner has informed us that as far as he knows there was virtually no banding at Cape May Point this year (other than raptors, that is. Ed.) It is very unfortunate to see this station close down as it is in one of the most important ornithological areas of New Jersey. The banding area near the Lighthouse is, in a very real sense, the original and oldest Operation Recovery Station. It was here that the late Seth Low, former Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory, and a team of banders did the pioneering work in coastal mist netting in the early 1950's which provided a stimulus for the O.R. program. Following Seth's death in 1960, George Hitchner has faithfully headed the O.R. station at the Point with only limited help. It would be a shame to see this important station closed permanently and hopefully some banders can be induced to revive it.

John and Mary Schmid have informed me that they were unable to do any banding at Mariedor this year, largely because they were in the process of moving from their home in Connecticut to settle permanently at Mariedor. We look forward to hearing from them next year and wish them the best of luck in their new home.

ISLAND BEACH, NEW JERSEY - Katherine G. Price

The Island Beach Station was in operation, during autumn migration 1970, from 26 July thru 8 November with banding taking place on 71 days. An adequate sampling of birds was acquired, by banding primarily from dawn to noon, of 6621 birds of 162 species in 3347 net hours. This is 197 birds per net hours x 100.

There were 4 recoveries, 56 returns and 222 repeats. An important repeat was 1083-74879 Common Tern. Banded as a Local by William E. Savell in our 10 minute grid, on 13 July 1970. Green band on left leg and F.W. band on right leg. Handled on 27 Sept. by D. & R. Foy. Released.

The recoveries were as follows-

796-03883 Herring Gull. Banded as a Local, 25 June 1970 by Darrel Ford at Captree State Park, N.Y., Picked up alive on ocean beach and given to K. Price on 30 August 1970. After it rested was released on bay shore and it flew off.

75-07166 Swamp Sparrow. Banded as AHY-U by J.R.Cohen at Atlantic Beach, N.Y. 9 Aug 1968. Netted by K. Price in Net Lane A-10 on 18 Oct 1970. Released.

122-94091 American Redstart. Banded by Mrs. E.F. Andrews at Mothball Pines, 3½ miles Southwest of Nantucket, Mass. on 7 Sep 1970 as a HY-U. Netted by Vernon Rossman in Lane A-13 on 13 Sep 1970. Released

125-10221 Brown Creeper. Banded as HY-U at Manomet, Mass. by MBO Personnel on 19 Oct 1970. Netted by R.P. Yunick on 28 Oct.1970 in Lane A-7.Released.

All cold fronts had stopped north of us until Friday night, 16 Oct., when a strong northwest wind brought a heavy flight of birds into our area and on 17 Oct., we banded 353 birds of 23 species in one net lane in 28 net hours for 1260 birds per net hour x 100 ! The next day, 18 Oct., we banded 218 birds of 18 species for 1211 birds per net hr. x 100! Details of the banding on these days will be in a separate paper. Note-worthy is the fact that we had good flights on nine of the days before 17 and 18 October when we did not have northwest winds and cold fronts passing thru our area. On 12 September the largest number of birds banded in one net lane was 115 of 44 species; 20 September with 175/36; 26 Sep. 132/49; 2 Oct. with 141/44; 5 Oct. with 177/43; 6 Oct. with 166/26 and 8 October with 141/23. Large flights after 18 Oct. were on 24 Oct. with 133/14; 25 Oct. with 214/17; 28 Oct. with 133/14 and 29 Oct. with 242/24.

Most frequently banded species were American Redstart, 669 (10% of total birds banded); Yellowthroat, 647 (9.8%); Catbird, 597 (9%); White-throated Sparrow, 419 (6.3%); Brown Creeper, 356 (5.4%); Ruby-cr. Kinglet 332 (5%); Golden Cr. Kinglet 295 (4.5%); Slate Colored Junco 264 (4%); Red-eyed Vireo 213(3.2%); Song Sparrow 208(3.1%); Myrtle Warbler 148(2.2%) Black-thr. Blue Warbler, 143(2.1%); Palm Warbler 129(1.9%) and Swainson's Thrush, 125 (1.9%).

Some interesting species were: 1 Louisiana Waterthrush, 5 Aug.; 1 Blue-winged Warbler, 30 Aug.; 1 Goldenwinged Warbler, 12 Sep.; 1 White-rumped Sandpiper, 17 Sep.; 1 Clay-colored Sparrow, 18 Sep., 3 Orange-cr. Warblers, 4, 5 and 29 Oct., and 1 Grasshopper Sparrow, 24 October.

Some dates of interest were 1 Savannah Sparrow, 3 Sep.; 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 6 November and 1 Semipalmated Plover 23 September.

Other statistics bearing notice- There were only 5 Red breasted Nuthatches banded for .075% of the total banded in autumn 1970 compared to 406 or 3.3% for 1969, 504 (1.8%) for 1968 and 4 (0.18%) for 1967. Thus in 1968 and 1969 there were explosions of Red-breasted Nuthatches in this area. 148 (2.2%) Myrtle Warblers were banded this autumn which was less than the 568(4.7%) in 1969, the 2023 (7.5%) in 1968 and the 973 (8.5%) in 1967. We banded more Swainson's Thrush, Grey-cheeked Thrush and Veery this year than last.

	Swainson's Thrush	Grey-chkd Thrush	Veery
1970	125 - 1.9%	59 - .89%	59 - .89%
1969	75 - .6%	43 - .35%	49 - .4%
1968	714 - 2.7%	237 - .8%	230 - .76%
1967	368 - 1.7%	82 - .38%	69 - .32%

There were more Ruby-crowned Kinglets banded than Golden-crowns but in the past three autumns approx. twice as many Golden-crowns were banded as Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Special studies were conducted on American Redstart, Brown Creeper, Swainson's Thrush, Grey-cheeked Thrush and Veery.

Island Beach, Cont'd

Public relations work was accomplished primarily thru banding demonstrations in cooperation with the park naturalists.

Educational activities included instruction for non-banders and new banders in identification, aging, sexing and skills and techniques of netting and banding and an exchange of information among experienced banders.

Banders in charge of net lanes were Dorothy and Roger Foy, Gale Goldbeck, Hazel Gorman, Dan Gray III, Dr. Charles Leck, Margaret and William Pepper, Katherine Price and Lloyd Price, Vernon Rossman, Mabel Warburton, and Dr. Robert Yunick. Station Leaders were John Miller, Margaret and William Pepper, Dorothy and Roger Foy, and Katherine Price. Station Coordinator- Katherine Price.

SHIP BOTTOM, N.J. by Mrs. Dorothy J. Foy.

The Ship Bottom, New Jersey banding station is located approximately fifteen miles southwest of Island Beach, on Long Beach Island at 393-0741. The station is in a residential district, one half mile from the ocean and 800 feet from the bay and consists of one half acre planted with pine, poplar and hemlock and various flowering fruit trees and bushes.

Being relatively new banders, this was the first time we took part in AFR, therefore there are no comparisons for previous years.

This report covers the dates from August 1, 1970 thru October 31, 1970 with the exception of September 28th thru October 5th when we banded at Island Beach under the dynamic and very capable leadership of Mrs. Kit Price.

All banding was accomplished with no more than three (3) nets. We banded a total of 25 days; 490 birds of 58 species and used 337 net hours. All birds were aged, sexed, weighed and a fat count was made. We had 18 repeats, 3 returns and 1 recovery. The best day was Oct. 17th with 86 birds of 18 species in 10 net hours.

The recovery was that of an American Redstart, #123-63585, HY-M., trapped and released Sep. 19, 1970. It was banded near Kiptopeke, Va., by Fred Scott on Sep. 12, 1970.

One rather late record was that of a Scarlet Tanager on October 16.

(The summary for this station follows on the second half of page 194 and on all of page 195. We are happy that it was still possible to present this fine summary, even though the current issue is a little over-filled. We generally do not encourage summaries, primarily because they are quite difficult to reproduce in limited space, but in the case of a new station, we feel that a summary is important in view of comparisons of subsequent years. F.S.S., Editor)