

EBBA BANDING SUMMARY - 1971

By Robert L. Pyle

Again this year the compiler had the help of several assistants, each of whom compiled the species total for a particular state. The job requires a great deal of painstaking work and meticulous attention to detail. Nevertheless, five of the six who assisted last year came back for another go at it this year. Assistant compilers for 1971 were: Jean Nichols at Manomet Bird Observatory (New England States); Will Merritt (New York); Elaine Frock (New Jersey); Walter Tyler (Pennsylvania); Melvin Kleen (Maryland); Walter Smith (Virginia); Elisabeth Teulings (North Carolina); and Herbert Kale (Florida). Many thanks to these volunteers for their hours of patient work contributed to EBBA.

The Summary statistics for 1971 give a clear indication that banding activity in the eastern region was generally less in 1971 than in previous years. This year, 272 active banders (largest response in the four years of the Summary compilation) reported only 294,986 birds banded, compared to 320,350 bandings by only 237 active banders in 1970. The median banding total in 1971 was only 411, compared to 590, 575 and 688 in previous years. The 178 individual banders who reported banding activity in both 1970 and 1971 banded 8% fewer birds in 1971 than in 1970. This compares with a 7% increase from '68 to '69 (167 banders) and a 1% decrease from '69 to '70 (189 banders). The following table figures for 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	Change '70 to '71
Total banders reporting	222	279	255	294	+ 15%
Active banders reporting	214	267	237	272	+ 15%
Total birds banded	258,732	316,475	320,350	294,986	- 8%
Average number banded (per active bander)	1209	1185	1351	1083	- 20%
Median number banded	688	575	590	411	- 30%
Number of banders reporting less than 100 bandings	24	41	35	50	+ 43%
Number of species reported	281	282	285	287	--

Reporting in	Active Banders	Total Banded	Total per bander	Change		
	1970	1971	1970	1970 to '71		
1970 and 1971:	178	270,289	247.503	1518	1390	- 8.4%
1970 only:	59	50,061	--	848	--	--
1971 only:	94	--	47,483	--	505	--

The four-year trends show some decided shifts in geographic location of banding activity within the eastern region. In 1968,

the statistics were clearly dominated by banding in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. These three states accounted for 49% of the bandings and 47% of the banders reporting. In subsequent years, New York has emerged clearly as the dominant state for number of banders and numbers banded (as reported to EBBA). Pennsylvania, and particularly New Jersey, have shown a steady decline through

Percent of total bandings

	1968	1971
New York	16%	20%
Florida	4	12
Maryland	5	11
Massachusetts	7	11
Pennsylvania	14	10
Virginia	8	8
New Jersey	19	8
North Carolina	5	5

the four years, relative to the other states, although these two states still have a relatively high number of responding banders. This indicates fewer bandings per bander and, in New Jersey, reflects the substantial cutbacks in large scale Operation Recovery programs at Cape May, Island Beach and possibly other stations. Florida's jump from 8th place to 2nd results from addition of the Sooty Tern banding program in the '70 and '71 Summaries, as well as the special effort this year to solicit reports from all Florida banders. Maryland's increase results from inclusion of the Maryland state waterfowl and dove bandings in the later years, as well as continued high activity at large-scale fall banding stations. Massachusetts activity reflects the growth in the banding program at Manomet Observatory during this period.

There were 738 Master Banding Permits in the eastern United States at the end of 1971, compared with 729 at the end of 1970. The 294 reports received this year (incl. negative reports) thus represent about 40% of the permit holders in the region. With the generous assistance of the Northeastern and Southeastern Regional Offices of the Fish and Wildlife Service, reports were received from all National Wildlife Refuges in the eastern area, plus additional bandings by U.S. Game Management Agents and other F&WS personnel. The fine cooperation of the Refuge Managers and Regional Offices is greatly appreciated.

Part of the increased response this year was due to the efforts of Herb Kale, who sent individual inquiries to all permit holders in Florida who had not responded to the original request in EBBA NEWS. This about doubled the number of reports on hand for Florida, with most of the additions coming from non-members of EBBA.

The 287 species reported in 1971 was two higher than last year, and included 13 new species not reported in prior years. Only three of these new species were passerines, the most outstanding being the Kirtland Warbler netted and banded at Powdermill Reserve in western Pennsylvania. Other notable new additions for the list included a Black-headed Grosbeak at the Kiptopeke Station in coastal Virginia, Wied Crested Flycatcher by Jonnie Fisk in Florida, Burrowing Owl, Great Grey Owl, Limpkin, Snow Goose and Mute Swan. Such 'western stragglers' as LeConte Sparrow, Western Tanager, Audubon Warbler and Bell's Vireo were banded in the eastern region for the second consecutive year.

Mourning Dove topped the list in numbers banded with 23,371. The dove total was pushed up by increased reporting of federal and state dove banding programs, although most state programs still are not included in the Summary. Myrtle Warbler (22,458) surpassed Sooty Tern (21,434) this year to regain clear title to the top non-gamebird species in numbers banded. This was a result of the phenomenal numbers of myrtles handled at coastal banding stations last fall. Whitethroated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco and Catbird, in that order, trailed far behind.

The ups and downs in winter finch flights (primarily January through April in the middle Atlantic states) are well-documented in the annual Summaries:

	1968	1969	1970	1971
Evening Grosbeak	5165	14,227	13,686	1122
Pine Siskin	539	6595	7988	217
Pine Grosbeak, redpolls, crossbills	5	1268	1738	3
Purple Finch (for contrast)	6513	9723	7022	6198

1972 is certain to be another banner year, at least in the middle Atlantic states. Purple Finch totals have remained essentially stable during the four year period, indicating that they do not participate heavily in these invasion flights.

Other interesting trends in overall bandings of various species and groups may well be revealed by more detailed study of the four annual Summaries.

As pointed out last year, bird observatory stations with active banding programs throughout a large part of the year are becoming an increasingly important part of overall non-gamebird banding activity in the eastern region. Again this year, Manomet Bird Observatory on the Massachusetts coast (19,868 individuals of 145 species) and Powdermill Nature Reserve in western Pennsylvania (11,762 individuals of 121 spp.) dominated the statistics. (No report was received this year from Long Point Bird Observatory on the Ontario shore of Lake Erie). These two stations had highest individual totals for 28 (Manomet) and 33 (Powdermill) species, far more than any other permittee. Other large institutional banding programs were W. Robertson's tern banding (21,451 of two tern species), Maryland Fish and Wildlife Administration (7,736 waterfowl and doves), and Irish Grove Sanctuary in Maryland (4027 of 85 species). Kiptopeke Station in Virginia and other large fall banding operations conducted jointly by several banders have large combined totals which are reported in the *Atlantic Flyway Review* section of EBBA NEWS.

Among individual banders, Anthony Lauro of New York had the highest total with 9352 birds banded, which included an astonishing 4044 Myrtle Warblers. Other individuals reporting more than 5000 birds were D. Ford (NY), M. Byrd (Md, Va), R. Yunick (Mass, NY, NJ), and R. Cohen (NY). High species counts were reported by D. Ford (124), A. Lauro (116) and three others with 101 to 105 species banded.

Some banders, either by happenstance or as part of a carefully planned program, are able to band large numbers of certain bird groups. These are people whom others might consult for helpful suggestions in capturing, handling and identifying these particular kinds of birds. Some of these specialists are as follows:

- Shearwaters, Petrels, Alcids: Bowdoin College, NB (1682 of 3 sp).
- Heron M. Byrd, Md., Va. (3032 of 7 sp)
J. Miller, NJ. (500 of 6 sp)
- Hawks Cape May Pt. Raptor Station: W. Clark, G. Mersereau, et al., NJ (1160 of 10 sp); J. Holt, Ont, Pa. (369 /7sp)
R. Wilson, NY, NJ (359 of 13 sp).
E. Tabb, Fla. (248 of 5sp.); C. Robertson Pa. (185 of 6 sp)
- Ospreys R. Kennedy, Va. (152); J. Reese, Md (124)
- Owls R. Wilson, NJ (23 of 2 sp); J. Reese, Md (15 of 2 sp); R. Cohen, NY (13 of 3 sp)
- Shorebirds Manomet Obs., Mass (674 of 10 sp);
V. Kleen, Md. (213 of 11 sp); R. McKinney, N.J. (209 of 12 sp).
- Gulls M. Byrd, Md. Va (2459 of 2 sp); D. Ford NY (1418 of 3 sp). J. Miller, NJ (1090/2sp)
- Terns, Skimmers W. Robertson, Fla (21,451 of 2 sp);
W. Savell, NJ (1416 of 4 sp); M. Byrd, Md, Va. (554 of 6 sp).
- Hummingbirds Powdermill Reserve, Pa. (144);
R. Yunick, NY (105)
- Swallows, Martins C. Katholi, WVa (813 of 3 sp. including 798 Martins); J. Morgan, Me (584 of 3sp)
- Bluebirds L. Kibler, NY, Pa (485); R. Bell, Pa, WVA (373)
- Warblers A. Lauro, NY (5158 of 31 sp); Manomet Obs, Mass. (4459 of 34 sp); Powdermill Res. Pa. (2988 of 34 sp); D. Ford, NY (2877 of 31 sp); Irish Grove Sanct, Md (2527 of 20 sp).

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Editor's Note: The Editors of EBBA NEWS thank Dr. Robert L. Pyle and his assistants for their efforts on behalf of EBBA in presenting to the membership this fine presentation. New reporting forms to cover banding done in 1972 will be enclosed with the November 1972 issue.

(Ed.)