

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW

REGION I

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Trying to find common trends which have clear significance among data presented from six to seven banding stations in eastern New England is a precarious undertaking, knowing that somewhere a statistician is asking about levels of confidence. Yet our data does achieve significance in a semi-quantitative way, especially in the aggregate. Previous editors have long beaten a path worth repeating: that banders must strive for uniformity within their station's activities in placement and timing of capture mechanisms if they expect their data to be comparative. While it is already a practice with some AFR-I banders, mention of birds caught with special effort or outside the usual netting periods should be appended rather than added to reports. Even with this, year to year station data is never strictly comparable for reasons which include various human factors, the weather and even gradual vegetative succession, but certain trends are nevertheless evident from station data, the more so to station operators who can best assess matters of variability or uniformity of conditions which might effect their totals.

Detectable trends within avian populations this year seemed to be relatively slight. No movement of Black-capped Chickadees was noted anywhere, the species hitting a 4-year low at Manomet, and no Boreal Chickadees were banded. Nor does it appear to have been the great year for Red-breasted Nuthatches that some birders have proclaimed, e.g. numbers banded at Block Island 1968-1972 are 73, 57, 1, 4, 8 respectively, although Nantucket noted a better than 50% increase over last fall. One species which seemed unusually numerous this year was the Bay-breasted Warbler, a record 45 netted at Mount Desert, outnumbering the Blackpoll with 23 netted, and the species increased from 5 to 18 at Nantucket in 2/3 the net hours. This increase seems well confirmed by data from Block Island, where the 1972 Bay-breast:Blackpoll ratio was a respectable 18:26, compared to a previous five year combined ratio of 23:219, and ground observations by this editor on Block Island for three weeks in September this year yielded a high 14:26 ratio. The impression that increased Bay-breast:Blackpoll ratios were not due to Blackpoll decrease was supported by Manomet totals for the latter, reduced this fall from 1971, but increased over two previous years.

Information seemed mixed and contradictory concerning the effect of last June's prolonged wet period, only data from Doug Kraus' station in Kingston, R.I. indicated a sharp reduction in birds caught per net hour and an apparent decline in the numbers of young raised. Elsewhere BPNH ratios remained about average or increased, and the nesting season based on my information can be

cautiously interpreted as a moderate success.

Statistical station data appears (where available) in the station accounts. Hopefully all stations next year will submit complete banding sheets as did East Chop and Block Island; this will facilitate a more complete analysis.

Received too late to include in this summary was a list of 1294 birds banded by Dr. John H. Kennard, all presumably at Bedford, N.H. Included in this total were 287 Redpolls and 466 Pine Siskins, contributing to our suspicion that the list includes both spring and fall banding. Perhaps Dr. Kennard can provide us with more details in coming years.

Mount Desert, Maine - Barbara Patterson

The Mount Desert Banding Station was in operation for 37 days between 9 August and 25 October. 817 birds of 57 species were banded in 543 net hours. The four nets were in operation, generally between 0800 and 1400, in the same net lanes used for the past 11 years. Netting was started roughly ten days to two weeks earlier than in previous years, which may account for the larger number of birds per net-hours than in the past: 1971 -533 in 496 NH, 1970-485 in 440 NH, 1969-532 in 890 NH. Approximately 64% were warblers this year.

The most frequently banded birds were American Redstart (60), Tennessee Warbler (55), Parula Warbler (48), Bay-breasted Warbler (45) and Nashville Warbler (43). An Orange-crowned Warbler (the second for this station) was the only rarity. The best day was 24 August with 69 birds of 21 species in 40 net-hours. The five returns were two Red-eyed Vireos, a Nashville Warbler, a Parula Warbler banded in September 1968 and an American Redstart banded as an AHY-F 26 August 1967. To date one recovery has been reported - a Black and White Warbler banded 26 August 1972 was recovered on 21 Sep. 1972 in Boylston, Mass. (Coord.422-0714). There were no foreign retraps.

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of Bay-breasted Warblers in the last 10 years. 1971 produced an all-time high of 26, 1972 topped that when 45 were netted. Also the number of Tennessee Warblers was sharply up this year. 55 were netted compared with a ten year high of 19.

Wing measurements were taken and all birds aged by skulling when possible. The station again took part in the AMFO age-ratio study project. In addition to, and separate from, the above operation one 6-meter net was set on our lawn near a bird bath to catch Red Crossbills. 77 were taken in 21 net-hours.