

MANOMET BIRD OBSERVATORY, Mass. - Kathleen Anderson

The observatory is situated at the coast with dense vegetation of average height about 5 metres, the main cover being Shadbush, Staghorn Sumac, Oak, Beech and Red Cedar. During the period of main fall migration from 1 Aug. to 15 November 1972, we handled 10,447 birds of 112 species. This total was comprised of 6,684 birds banded plus 3,763 repeats; approximately 50 nets were used on 92 days.

TABLE I

SEASON	NO. BANDED	NET HRS.	B.P.N.H x 100
7 Aug - 31 Oct, 1969	4,828	31,178	15.5
1 Aug - 31 Oct, 1970	7,127	40,575	17.6
1 Aug - 23 Nov, 1971	10,424	44,906	23.2
1 Aug - 15 Nov, 1972	6,684	38,153	17.5

Fall 1972 was thus very comparable with 1970, but totally lacked the Black-capped Chickadee invasion of 1971 which boosted our fall migration to the record 23.2 birds per 100 net/hrs. This variable pattern of chickadee movements gave 1972 the lowest chickadee totals of the last four years at Manomet, the most dramatic drop being for the month of October: - Oct. 1971, 3,305 banded (283.2 per 1000 net hours); down by 98% to Oct. 1972, 74 banded (5.5 per 1000 net hours).

TABLE II Black-capped Chickadees banded 1 Aug-15 Nov.

SEASON	NO. BANDED	NO. P.N.H. x 1000
1969	995	31.3
1970	326	7.4
1971	4549	130.7
1972	166	4.4

The peak days for all species in 1972 were 11 Oct. (349 banded), 14 Oct. (285), 20 Oct (422), 21 Oct (348) and 25 Oct (288). The species banded in greatest numbers during fall 1972 are shown below with comparisons of totals and B.P.N.H x1000 back to 1969.

TABLE III Numbers banded 1 Aug - 15 Nov 1969-72. (BPNH in brackets)

SPECIES	1972	1971	1970	1969
1. Myrtle Warbler	1304 (34.2)	847 (18.9)	1438 (32.5)	
2. Catbird	809 (21.2)	608 (13.6)	980 (22.2)	584 (18.3)
3. White-thr. Spar.	532 (13.9)	159 (3.5)	522 (11.8)	93 (2.9)
4. Blackpoll Warb.	463 (12.1)	1131 (25.2)	186 (4.2)	132 (4.1)
5. Robin	424 (11.1)	245 (5.5)	849 (19.2)	195 (6.1)
6. Slate-col. Junco	272 (7.1)	89 (2.0)	95 (2.1)	88 (2.8)

Although 1972 Blackpoll Warbler and Black-capped Chickadee numbers were down compared to 1971, Myrtle Warbler, Catbird, and Robin numbers were up. The large increase in numbers of White-

throated Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco banded, (and indeed a sharp increase of all sparrows), was due to the planting of @6,000 square metres of buckwheat and millet on one of the few clear areas of the property. Eight Grasshopper Sparrows and ten White-crowned Sparrows were caught in this field with an HY Dickcissel on 25 October and a Lark Sparrow on 1 November, the latter being a new species on the Observatory banding list. It seems likely that the sparrows plus open area also attracted the unusually large number of Sharp-shinned Hawks (5 banded), and the Pigeon Hawk caught on 23 September.

Other rarities banded included an immature Red-shouldered Hawk on 17 October, 7 Saw-whet Owls in October, an HY Northern Shrike on 10 November, a Yellow-throated Vireo on 4 September, Worm-eating Warbler on 18 September, and an HY Summer Tanager on 7 November, a very late date for the latter.

Banding on Plymouth Beach was part of the M.B.O. Shore-bird Study with 1,367 shorebirds of 12 species banded this fall migration, (9 June-21 September). The most numerous were the 1278 Semi-palmated Sandpipers, but a test catch of 20 Black-bellied Plover with a rocket net opened up new possibilities in this field. Other banding studies under way at the Observatory include detection of low level radiation in birds, behavior and dispersal of Slate-colored Juncos, fall and winter weights of Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow, and further studies arising from our computer data processing program which now covers records from 1970 onwards.

(This report from staff biologist TREVOR L. LLOYD-EVANS)

EAST CHOP, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. - Grace C. Meleney

AFR editor: The East Chop station was in operation for 17 days between September 12-October 17, for a total of 192 net hours. The entire first half of October was missed by Miss Meleney due to a severe fall and subsequent hospitalization. Nevertheless, 111 birds were banded during this period, including 24 Towhees, 4 Pine Warblers, 9 Red-breasted Nuthatches, and 5 Bob-whites. The Nuthatch total equalled 1971 and exceeded the three previous years, although not comparable to 42 banded in 1963. There were 75 repeats by 35 birds, and 11 returns. Thirty birds were "recovered" by Miss Meleney or Mrs. Mabel Gillespie, who lives a short distance away, which were originally banded at the station of the other.

NANTUCKET, Mass.-Mrs. Edith Andrews

In the fall of 1972 the Nantucket banding station operated 31 days during the months of August, September and October whereas the station operated 41 days during the same period in 1971. A comparison of the total number of individuals, net hours and species for the period follows:

	1971	1972
Individuals	1862	1627
Net Hours	602	392
Species	66	71

It will be seen that in spite of a lot less effort (fewer days of operation and fewer net hours) the overall total was good. Adverse weather contributed mainly to the difference in the number of days of operation. There was a good flight of warblers in August which coincided with winds from the north and bright moonlight the night before. In September the best flight also occurred at the time of the full moon. October saw the largest number of birds banded as that when the myrtle warblers are going through in abundance.

Fluctuations in the numbers of individuals of some species banded in the last two seasons are shown below:

	1971	1972
Eastern Phoebe	1	11
Red-breasted Nuthatch	22	52
Cape May Warbler	28	66
Bay-breasted Warbler	5	18
Blackpoll Warbler	47	26
American Redstart	121	76
Slate-colored Junco	72	25

An early invasion of Evening Grosbeaks should be mentioned. Three were mist netted at one of the usual banding stations on October 21 but flocks of 20-30 arrived at feeders in Town. Thinking there might be a total of about 50 we proceeded to band 200 from October 22 through November 16. This number (200) is not included in the total given above as they were caught in a wire trap at a location different from the mist netting stations.

Word has just come from the banding laboratory that a Myrtle Warbler (band #1290-93040) banded at Nantucket October 10, 1972 was trapped and released at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Refuge, on the outer beach near Jones Beach, N.Y. four days later, October 14, 1972.

BLOCK ISLAND, R.I. - Elise Lapham

AFR editor: The Block Island station, located near the north end of the island, was in operation Aug.14-Nov.19, and 1710 birds of 74 species were banded in 1612 N/H yielding a respectable 1.06 birds per N.H. An average 8 nets were used on 39 days: 4 in Aug., 10 in September (21st on), 21 days in October and four days in mid-November. Lack of coverage in early September lowered totals of many early migrants, but due to a slight increase in cold fronts this year compared with last year, some species appeared more numerous.

Particularly improved were Red-eyed Vireos (75 to 27 last year) and Catbirds, which totalled 202 this year compared to 63 last year.

Mrs. Lapham comments:

Our peak days were October 14, 16 and 18 with 125, 118 and 133 respectively. One exciting new species for us was a Grasshopper Sparrow. We were overwhelmed with Kinglets the last two weeks in October, 156 Golden-crowned and 92 Ruby-crowned. Also in 1971, Again Myrtle Warblers were most numerous though we only banded 10 from each net check, releasing the others.

Dr. Kenneth Able, from New York University at Albany, used some of our birds in an orientation experiment, holding them over night and releasing them in the morning. He and Richard Ferren, who is compiling a book on Rhode Island birds, also observed the daytime migration of birds from the northern tip of the Island.

At the end of seven years of banding, including some in the Spring, our station total is 21,589 of 138 different species.

We had one foreign retrap, a Myrtle Warbler banded by K. Price near Seaside Park, N.J. Three of our birds were recovered elsewhere.

(Mrs. Lapham's efforts have been of the greatest help in my work on Rhode Island bird distribution. This year operation of nets into late October and four days in mid-November yielded a Gray-cheeked Thrush on October 22 and a Red-eyed Vireo on November 19, both new late dates for Rhode Island. -RLF)

KINGSTON, R.I. - Dr. Douglas L. Kraus

AFR editor: Since no description of this station has ever appeared in EBBA NEWS, we shall attempt to give details: The station is located about a mile east of town on an ancient, overgrown farm. Surrounding areas are heavily wooded with black oak, red maple and white ash, but the immediate area of the house is in an earlier stage of succession, with young black cherry, red maples and much understory of brush and catbrier. Several old apple trees and two evergreens near the house are attractive to transient warblers and Empidonax. The shrubby nature of the habitat near the house creates an island favorable to birds compared to more dense woodland nearby. In addition, a massive bird feeding program attracts many birds which do not frequent the feeders. The area is particularly attractive to the Blue-winged Warbler, which abound in the area, both as breeders and transients. The station has been operating for about 15 years almost singlehandedly by Prof. Kraus.