

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: