

HIGHLIGHTS OF 20 YEARS BANDING ON BELL HILL
(BEDFORD, N.H.)
Continued

By John H. Kennard

WOODPECKERS

Right outside the window at our breakfast table is a maple tree on which we have hung a suet feeder. Downy Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopus pubescens*) come to feed here every day of the year, and Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopus villosus*) very frequently. By occasionally placing the suet in a pull trap on the ground nearby, I can sometimes catch these birds. Sometime I hope to make or buy a more efficient trap for woodpeckers.

Hairy Woodpeckers are more difficult to catch than Downy Woodpeckers, and I have only banded 6, of which only one was recaptured in a second year.

Downy Woodpeckers breed nearby, and in recent years have brought their young to the maple tree, where they feed them, and then teach them to eat for themselves. By early September, the young disappear, but the same adults remain through the winter to rear another brood the next year.

I have banded 36 Downies, of which 9 have returned for two or more years, 5 for four or more, and two for six years. My oldest bird (#23-162558), banded After Hatching Year (AHY)-Female on 12-02-55 was last retrapped on 04-09-61, being 5 years and 10 months old or older when last trapped.

Only one bird (31-160760 HY-F) banded as HY has returned in a different year (11-05-62 to 06-26-64). One bird (26-111320) recorded as U-U, banded 11-05-62, showed flecks of pinkish orange on the back of its head, and when retrapped 11-18-61 still showed similar pinkish orange feathers.

One Downy, a female, apparently adult, appeared on our suet about Christmas time, 1970, with a noticeable deformity. Her upper bill was definitely longer than the lower, and the tip deviated to the left. During the winter, she spent more and more time on the suet, as she was obviously unable to peck wood in the normal manner, and the bill became longer and longer. She was banded 04-07-71. By June, she was dirty, thin and obviously sick. On 07-03-71, I recaptured her and using surgical instruments, cut off the extra portion of the bill, shaping it to very nearly its normal shape. She seemed to do better for a few weeks, but shortly it regrew, apparently at an even faster pace. On 09-01-71, I reoperated, but by October it had regrown, her general condition became worse and she disappeared.

REDWINGED BLACKBIRDS

Redwinged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) have undergone a marked change in distribution in New England in the last 20 years. As a boy, I remember finding Redwing nests in the swamps and wetlands, but I do not remember them on the beaches, in the woods, or in developed suburbia. They now have increased their local ranges and are common on the beaches and frequent my feeders, which are in the woods, not close to any significant wetlands.

This can be documented by the fact that until 1964, I had not banded a single Redwing. From 1964 through 1970, I banded only 17; in 1971, 10; in 1972, I banded 31 new, plus 7 returns from previous years.

In this species, the behavior and feeding habits of the two sexes differ greatly. The males travel relatively widely, are easily seen, and come into my traps for grain. The females remain near the nesting area, are much shyer, and do not as often come into traps. Only in the last two years have I had more than occasionally a female in my feeders. Of the 11 birds returning for more than one year, only one was a female.

Of the 27 birds banded before 1972, 11 have returned for more than one season as follows: 5 for a second year only, 5 for a third, and 1 for a fifth.

This year I have become aware of the fact that females can have red patches on the wings. I have not been able to find this described in the literature. I have trapped four that have shown this, one, a typical female in size and plumage, except that she had typical bright unflecked orange red patches with yellowish borders, and two with definite red patches, with dark brownish flecks. My one female return (#69-131897) was banded 05-13-71 as a typical adult female, and returned 05-31-72 with red-orange wing patches which were flecked with dark brown.

Older female Purple Finches have been shown to assume some of the pink coloration of the adult male. It now seems to me probable that older female Redwinged Blackbirds may assume the red shoulder patches of the male. I would be very interested in hearing from any other bander who might have data to support this theory.

GRACKLES

Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) are another example of birds that have increased their range in New England in recent years. They seem to have adapted well to civilization and "urban sprawl",

and in the last 20 years have spread into the cities and suburban housing projects. They were rarely seen on my hill until 1964, when I banded 8. Since then, they have been relatively common, coming in to my feeders and traps in the spring. After the young have fledged, they flock up and feed in the nearby fields, but do not come in to the traps. I see them flying over by many hundreds, but they rarely stop in my woods; they roost by the thousands in nearby woods.

I have banded 96, of which 7 have returned in another season, 5 for a third year or later, one each for 4, 5, and 6 years. My oldest bird (#823-54566), banded 05-25-67, AHY was last trapped 06-10-72, when he must have been six years old.

My only foreign return was (#823-00635) banded 05-04-69, AHY and found dead in Suffolk, Virginia in December 1970.

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Kennard's first paper appeared in EBBA NEWS November 1972 issue, Vol. 35, page 263-267; his second paper appeared in the February 1973 issue, Vol. 36, page 16-18, and another paper is still pending publication).

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WARBLERS BANDED AT ISLAND BEACH BANDING STATION FROM 1957 TO 1972

By Mr. and Mrs. William Pepper

We were fortunate to band at Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, N.J. almost from the inception of Operation Recovery. During this time we banded 7873 warblers. From this total we received nine recoveries to date. I should add that none of these have been verified. We have had a number of returns also, most of them yellowthroats, probably local residents.

The number of nets used each year averaged from seven to ten, reduced for parts of some days to one or none during heavy flights - due mainly to lack of storage space. We usually processed all held birds before nets were reopened. At times in the last few years we have had several helpers. No accounting has been made of non-trapping hours or days due to weather or other reasons.

Several different net locations were used over the years but all were within a five mile stretch in the park.

The recoveries received to date are as follows:

116-98507	Black-throated Blue Warbler, HY M banded 9-09-68 Rec: Merritt Island, Fla. 04-24-71. Found Dead.
119-56622	Blackpoll Warbler, HY U banded 10-01-69 Rec: Manchester, Conn. Found Dead.
78-66346	Ovenbird, AHY U banded 05-20-71 Rec: Ship Bottom, N.J. 05-22-71. Trapped & Released.
76-29813	Northern Waterthrush, AHY U banded 05-28-70 Rec: Roberts Arm, Newfoundland, 06-06-70. Found Dead.
115-73032	Yellowthroat, U U banded 10-02-67 Rec: Littleton, Mass. 08-17-68. Trapped & Released.
125-24257	Yellowthroat AHY F banded 05-19-71 Rec: Block Island, R.I. 05-28-71. Trapped & Released
28-190101	Yellow Breasted Chat U U banded 09-12-61 Rec: Vera Cruz, Mexico. 04-26-62 Found Dead.
119-56541	American Redstart U U banded 09-29-69 Rec: Ship Bottom, N.J. 10-02-69 Trapped & Released.
121-72133	Yellowthroat AHY F banded 05-19-70 Rec: Stonington, Conn. 06-01-72. Trapped & Released.

A tabulation of the warblers banded follows on page 98/99. Please read across both pages!

The Prothonotary Warbler was, I believe, only the 13th banded at Island Beach. It was caught on 9-22-72, the day after a two day northeast storm during which no banding was attempted. The bird weighed 10.5 gr., the wing chord was 69 mm, and was released at 9:15 A.M.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: We sincerely apologize to Dr. Walter K. Taylor for accidentally omitting Table 1 from his paper: Aging of Ovenbirds by Rusty-tipped Tertiaries and Skull Ossification (EBBA NEWS 36: 71-72). The omitted table follows:

TABLE 1. Autumn Migrating Ovenbirds Examined for Rusty-tipped Tertiaries.

Date	Total Sampled	Rusty-tip'd Tertiaries (Chose)	Number Missed	Lacking Rusty-tip'd Tertiaries (Chose)	Number Missed
22 August	1	1	0	0	0
31 August	2	0	0	2	0
11 September	9	1	0	8	0
12 September	71	15	0	56	4
13 September	5	1	0	4	0
3 October	87	30	0	57	5
4 October	13	5	0	8	0
TOTALS	188	53	0	135	9

F.S. Schaeffer, Editor

Species	1957	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Black & White	8	7	8		3	13	8	5	9	11	15	32	29	22
Prothonotary														
Worm Eating	1				1		1			1			1	
Brewster's											1			
Golden-Winged										1				
Nashville		2	2			1	1	3		1	18	17	10	14
Orange Crown'd								1		1	1			
Tennessee		1			4	1	1	8	5	4	8	17	3	4
Parula	3	2	6	2		3	1	9	4	6	24	17	14	19
Cape May	7	6	8	5	2	9	13	27	7	26	21	25	20	42
Yellow	4	3	1	1	2	3	3		1	4	2	27	1	41
Blk. Thr. Blue	6	5	9	2	5	8	13	7	8	19	28	20	25	31
Myrtle	2					5	70	149	29	129			31	2
Magnolia	3	6	3	1		16	19	15	17	21	22	39	24	57
Chestnut S.	3	1				2	1	1	2	4		7	5	8
Bay Breasted		2	2			4	2	3	1	2	4	7	2	6
Blackpoll	3	7	5	6	6	18	53	26	15	126	13	17	78	40
Blackburnian		1				3			1	4		8	2	4
Blk. Thr. Green		4	3	1		3	3	4	5	7	18	10	9	26
Pine								1				1		
+Palm	1	1		9	1	8	7	53	29	21	79	43	26	78
Prairie	2		2			5	7	1		4	3	3	3	1
Ovenbird	5	9	6	4	2	18	9	15	4	10	11	24	8	24
N. Waterthrush	8	15	18	2	4	13	16	5	2	2	2	25	9	25
Kentucky								1						
Connecticut	2	3	2			3	5	2		16	8	8	3	1
Mourning	1						2	1				1	4	1
Yellowthr.	25	26	20	5	23	44	41	14	22	83	119	238	111	161
Yellow Br. Chat	7	11	9	5	4	13	5	7	6	13	1	15	3	2
Hooded	1		1			1								
Wilson	2		1			1	3	3	2	8	5	28	6	6
Canada	1	5	3			4				6	1	22		3
Amer. Redstart	36	51	30	13	27	40	79	21	28	103	54	211	62	221
Blue-winged W.														
34SP. TOTAL	131	134		84	298				320	533	587	862	489	839
		168		56	234		303							

+Palm Warbler - includes both subspecies.

1971	72	TOTALS	SPRING			TOTALS	CUMUL. TOTALS	DATES OF STAY
			1970	1971	1972			
12	15	197	25	41	9	75	272	1957- 9/7-18
	1	1					1	1958- 9/5-20
	1	6					6	1959- 8/30-9/12
		1					1	1960- 9/6-11
		1					1	1961- 9/5-15
8	21	101	2	11	3	16	117	1962- 9/9-23
		3		1		1	4	1963- 9/8-22
3	4	63	5	1	2	8	71	1964- 9/25-10/9
17	18	140	30	43	18	91	231	1965- 9/23-10/7
31	42	291	1	3	2	6	297	1966- 9/12-25&10/27
2	13	108	36	46	20	102	210	10/30
15	12	213	8	12	12	32	245	1967- 9/5-10/13
5		422	1	8	3	12	434	1968- 9/5-19
24	19	286	100	64	30	194	480	1969- 9/22-10/6
3	2	39	6	12	1	19	58	1970- 9/16-29
3	1	39	5			5	44	1971- 9/14-27
55	40	508	72	20	14	106	614	1972- 9/11-25
1		24	4	5	2	11	35	SPRING
7	4	104	4	5	9	18	122	1970- 5/14-28
		2					2	1971- 5/8-20
32	44	432			1	1	433	1972- 5/14-25
4	5	40	2	1	3	6	46	
5	6	160	15	50	3	68	228	
5	16	167	22	22	9	53	220	
		1		1		1	2	
2	1	56					56	
1	2	13					13	
86	75	1093	296	294	256	846	1939	
5	2	108	3	3	1	7	115	
1		4		1		1	5	
9	12	86	33	14	14	61	147	
2	1	48	48	8	9	65	113	
89	104	1169	68	35	37	140	1309	
				1		1	1	
427	461	5927		SPRING=		1946	(27SP)	
						5927+		
						7873		