

DECEMBER

Saw-whet owls - 2 on 2nd  
Merlin - one on 4th

A total of 15 Dickcissels, plus one banded were seen this fall; this is lower than in some years such as 1969, when 55 were recorded. However this might be due to spottier daily coverage this year. Large numbers of Pine siskins were recorded going by in November, but almost none were netted.

Personnel who actually ran the nets and gathered most of the data enumerated here include: Darrel B. Ford, Howard Honig, Frederick A. Heath, Robert O. Paxton, Fred Schaeffer, Efrem Rosen, Dan Klem, Sheila Becker, Thomas H. Davis, John Biderman, Mary McKeough, and F. G. Buckley.

TOBAY BANDING STATION (Anthony J. Lauro)

Tobay Banding Station is located four miles south of Massapequa, on the outer island adjacent to the Jones Beach State Park complex, near the Nassau/Suffolk County line in New York. It consists of typical barrier beach habitat, low deciduous cover (Poison Ivy, Catbrier and Bayberry shrubs) interspersed with grasses and phragmites.

The station was in operation on August 6th, 26-27th, September 2nd, 4th, 9th through 12th, 14th through 17th, 23rd and 24th, and on October 1st, 8-9th, 14-15th, 21-22nd and 28th. Fifteen to seventeen nets were used. All nets were of the 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh type.

Not much banding was done because the weather was very wet throughout the month of August. September was also very wet and the best day that month was September 23rd with 126 individuals banded. October 14th was the best day with 320 birds banded; other banding days that month did not turn out very well because winds were not conducive to good flights.

The Myrtle warbler was the most commonly banded bird (1437), followed by the Yellowthroat (95), Catbird (91), Red-eyed vireo (83), White-throated sparrow (59), Barn swallow (67) and Eastern phoebe (51). No rarities were noted at this station during the period covered.

One return is interesting: a Myrtle warbler, banded on 15 October, 1971, was retrapped on 16 October 1972.

A Slate colored junco was recovered on 12-25-72. It was banded by A.J. Lauro, at Tobay on 10-01-72 (#81-055773).

Overall it was just a poor year because of the weather conditions and there was nothing particularly noteworthy.

Two banders assisted during the 1971 season: Harvey Farber and Robert Giffen. Tabulations of the netting effort are available at no charge.

WADSWORTH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, Westport, Conn. (Robert Dewire)

Nets were set up in a shrubby thicket area adjoining a red maple swamp and in a field edge near a bird feeding station. A monthly breakdown is indicated below:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 Net Hours	Species
Aug.	16	303	2	19	42	40
Sept.	16	400	1	6	73	51
Oct.	15	667	0	7	121	46

This years totals were much higher than 1971 because of the increase in the number of nets used, from 3 in 1971 to up to 10 and an average of 8 this year. Even so, based on the net hour figures the birds were up over 1971 (66/100 net hours in 1971, 75/100 this year). The same habitats were used with an increase in the number of nets in the shrubby thicket area. There is no doubt that the warbler flights were far better here this year. Last year, seven species had higher totals than the Myrtle warbler, but this year they were by far the most numerous (166). Other species most commonly caught were the Catbird (110), Ruby-crowned kinglet (102), Yellowthroat (97), and White-throated sparrow (96).

While it would be hard to say any species positively increased over last year since the higher number of nets were used this year, it is easy to note the decreases where fewer individuals were caught this year despite the net increase. Most noticeable were the Blue Jay (56 in 1971 to 23), Black-capped chickadee (51 in 1971 to 21) Towhee (43 in 1971 to 22), Robin (28 in 1971 to 15), and

Flicker (10 in 1971 to 0). Besides the Flicker, species missed this fall that were banded last year were Wood pewee, Bluebird, Sapsucker, Carolina wren, Red-bellied woodpecker, and Brown creeper.

Birds of interest each month were:

Louisiana waterthrush netted on the 5th and 11th of August.  
Hooded warbler netted on August 10th  
Broad-winged hawk netted on August 25th  
Screech owl banded on August 31st

Philadelphia vireo on Sept. 4th  
Connecticut warbler on Sept. 27th  
Lincoln's sparrow on Sept. 28th

Saw-whet owl on Oct. 26th  
Grasshopper sparrow on Oct. 11th  
White-cr. sparrow on Oct. 13th  
Lincoln's sparrow on Oct. 9th

August saw no noticeable flight days and September was quiet until the end of the month when a front on the 28th produced a catch of 50 birds of 20 species. A storm system on the 29th and 30th followed by a frontal system on Oct. 1st produced catches of 43 and 84 birds on the 1st and 2nd. The best flight of all at the station was on Oct. 10th and 11th when 70 and 115 birds resp. were caught.

The increase in nets makes comparison with last year, our first year of operation difficult. Fall of 1973 will see the operation run the same as 1972. I was assisted by my wife Mary Jean, whose help was invaluable in the operation of the station.

--Mid-Fairfield County Youth Museum, Westport, Conn. 06880

## AN EASILY MADE AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BIRD TRAP

LERROY C. STEGEMAN

The trap described here has pleased me very much because it is easy to make and highly successful in catching seed-eating birds. It is small enough to be easy to carry and can be placed in a variety of locations without difficulty. It is light enough so that chipmunks frequently push under it to escape and therefore do not injure the birds as often. Birds injure themselves less in a round trap because they drift along the side without any corners to stop them.

It is a simple round trap 24 inches in diameter and 12 inches high with a single funnel entrance. There is nothing magic about these dimensions, however, they have proven very satisfactory. See the drawing. The removal door is a square opening in the top of the trap. It is about five inches square and is closed by a hinged piece of double-thickness hardware cloth. The entrance of the funnel is about eight inches wide and six inches high. The funnel is about eight inches long so that the inner opening is near the center of the trap. A low circular fence is attached to the inner end of the funnel as shown in the figure. This fence is three inches high and forms a circle about five inches in diameter. Its presence prevents the birds from seeing the inner opening to the funnel and adds greatly to the success of the trap. For easy carrying a small wire handle was attached to the side of the trap as shown in the figure.

Two traps can be made from one piece of hardware cloth two feet wide and thirteen feet long. I used one fourth inch mesh and found it quite satisfactory. The trap was joined together with solder. Solder is easy to use because it adheres freely to the new galvanized hardware cloth. Solder makes the joints more smooth. There are no points or loose ends to injure the birds or the bander. The trap is also more durable when solder is used.

I have captured as many birds in one of these traps as I have in a double funnel government sparrow trap. If you try this simple trap I wish you every success in its use.

(Drawing appears on  
p. 214. Editor)

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