

## ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW

REGION I

EDITED BY Richard L. Ferren

This year all six stations which reported last year were in operation plus Mabel Gillespie's station at East Chop, Martha's Vineyard. In all, 9,466 birds were banded. All station operators were in substantial agreement that this was one of the poorest fall migrations in recent years. Every station reported fewer birds than usual in the same or more net hours, this being perhaps the result of lower numbers of adults nesting last summer due to relatively poor production of young in the summer of 1972. Weather, however, seemed to be the most important factor in lower banding totals at most stations, all of which are close to the coast. Very few days had sufficient northwesterly winds to produce a good flight, and this had its effect felt most noticeably at locations farthest southeast in southern New England. Actual numbers of birds caught this year compared to last year at Manomet, Nantucket, Kingston and Block Island were lower by 20%, 43%, 0%, and 1% respectively, in approximately the same number of net hours as last year. The fact that Nantucket and Block Island differed so remarkably seems to support the general impression that the latter is less dependent on cold fronts and north-west winds for its birds than the former because it lies closer to the southwesterly flow of undrifted transients flowing through mainland New England.

Contributing to an overall sense of mediocrity of the fall season at all stations was the lack of any flights of periodically abundant species. There were almost no Red-breasted Nuthatches. The Black-capped Chickadee population had recovered from its irruption of 1971 and the resultant slump of 1972. (see Manomet) No Boreal Chickadees were banded in southern New England.

I wish to thank all contributing station operators for their information. Their reports follow:

Somesville, Mount Desert, Maine - Barbara Patterson

In 1973 the Mount Desert Banding Station was in operation for 24 days between 14 August and 2 October. A total of 404 net-hours produced 589 new birds of 46 species. Approximately 70% were warblers.

Since 1963, with the exception of 1966 when no banding was done, the same net lanes have been used, with netting done generally from 08:00 til 14:00. The peak flight day was 16 September when 101 new birds of 30 species were banded in 36 net-hours. This is a high for the past 11 years at this station.

The most frequently netted birds were Parula Warbler (60), Bay-breasted Warbler (50), Blackpoll Warbler (49), American Redstart (33) and Nashville Warbler (21). There were 6 returns, no foreigners, and, to date, no recoveries.

Again there was an increase in the number of Bay-breasted Warblers (50) topping the 1972 high of 45. The ratio of the Bay-breast:Blackpoll does not give a true picture for my station. The last two years, and occasionally before that, I have been away in mid-September for a week, more or less, at the time Blackpolls go through in greatest numbers. Bay-breasted Warblers arrive earlier and have generally peaked by 15 September. In those years I undoubtedly missed a fair number. Swainson's Thrushes were more numerous (32) than in 1972 - (17) and 1971 - (8). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (9) were more than in any year since 1965 when 10 were banded. Yellow-throats were down from 20 in 1972 to 2 this year. Ovenbirds were also sharply down - 15 in 1972 to 3 this year - a 10 year low.

All birds were skulled and wing chord measurements taken.

The following chart shows the fluctuation in the numbers of individuals of the warbler species common at this station.

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	1963	1964	1965	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Black & White	8	12	20	25	22	6	8	16	29	18
Tennessee	6	7	27	17	17	29	9	17	55	17
Nashville	10	31	31	38	51	32	10	16	43	21
Parula	27	33	42	42	69	34	35	45	48	60
Magnolia	18	37	39	47	41	30	29	35	32	31
Cape May	1	3	8	10	19	27	4	30	9	8
Black-thr. Blue	3	5	6	3	6	0	4	0	3	2
Myrtle	21	44	68	30	62	9	1	15	16	14
Black-thr. Green	6	25	91	66	56	14	23	30	39	44
Blackburnian	0	0	8	2	13	1	6	15	21	11
Chestnut sided	1	3	1	17	17	3	6	8	7	8
Bay-breasted	2	8	9	7	33	21	4	26	45	50
Blackpoll	13	27	117	68	158	10	9	46	23	49
Ovenbird	7	18	13	10	23	6	6	14	15	3
N. Water-thrush	19	30	10	13	25	13	15	15	22	15
Yellow-throat	11	11	6	21	17	17	15	1	20	2
Wilson's	6	4	1	7	5	9	13	11	9	5
Canada	3	14	5	14	13	5	5	5	22	19
Am. Redstart	15	21	8	65	48	55	81	26	60	33
Total No. Warblers:	177	333	510	502	695	321	283	371	518	410
Total all species:	815	1128	1128	804	1064	532	485	533	894	589
No. net-hours:	1648+	1886+	1503	1440	1532	890	440	496	543	404

Manomet Bird Observatory, Mass. - Executive Director Kathleen S. Anderson

The Observatory operates year round, but this report is confined to the main period of all migration from 1 August to 15 November 1973. During this time we recorded data on 8,539 birds comprised of 5,458 new bandings plus 3,081 repeats. Approximately 50 nets were used on 90 days and the sites were similar to previous years to ensure comparability.

TABLE I New bandings of all species, 1 Aug. to 15 Nov.

SEASON	NO. BANDED	NET HOURS	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
1 Aug. - 15 Nov. 1973	5,458	41,301	13.2

If 1971 was a "big" fall and 1972 "average", then the fall migration of 1973 showed a considerable drop in numbers of nearly all species. There were also fewer days of heavy migration, the peaks (including repeats), being: 27 September (236 birds handled), 28 September (416), 30 September (424), 1 October (238), 7 October (254).

Table II shows the most frequently banded species in order and gives comparisons of totals and B.P.N.H. x 1000 from 1969. The two years 1969 and 1970 may have artificially low totals due to the shorter catching season.