

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW

REGION III

Robert Dewire, coordinator

Region III covers the banding stations on Long Island, New York and one station in Westport, Conn. The Fire Island Research Station has closed down its operation and begun analyzing the great amounts of data obtained on the some 60,000 birds that were banded over the years at the station. Dr. Paul Buckley's always interesting report from the Station will be missed.

This leaves only Manorville, Brookhaven, and Tobay as the only active fall banding stations on Long Island.

In 1973 banders in the region were sweating through an August heat wave which lasted throughout the month resulting very little bird movement. The hot weather persisted into September and finally ended with a cool front passing over on the 8th, with bird activity picking up noticeably on the 9th. Migration was steady but with no large waves for the rest of the month up to the last day when a cold front the night before produced good numbers on the 30th at all stations. October was a cool month with a frost experienced at the Westport station as early as the 11th. Best flights were from October 6 through the 10th and again from the 16th to the 20th.

Station summaries are as follows:

	Manorville, N.Y.	Brookhaven, N.Y.	Westport, Conn.
Days of Operation	60	103	48
# of nets used	3 to 10	14	2 to 8
# of birds banded	559	3024	1061
# of birds banded in 1972	353	1786	1370
# of different species	51	87	63
Birds / 100 net hours	52	73	84
Birds / 100 net hours in 1972	36	67	75

Manorville (Gilbert Raynor)

The monthly breakdown of the Manorville station is as follows:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 net hours	Species
Aug.	17	34	2	1	19.9	11
Sept.	18	169	4	20	42.0	34
Oct.	25	356	2	67	70.2	38

Although there was an increase in birds netted over the previous year (353 in 1972, 599 this year), numbers were still low at the station. The peak day for each month was August 25th when 8 birds were banded, September 16th with 31 banded and October 20th with 67 banded. The most numerous birds were dark-eyed junco, 83; white-throated sparrow, 78; and catbird 76. No new species for the station were caught this year, but a Louisiana waterthrush banded on August 18th and 2 Connecticut warblers banded on September 26th are worthy of note.

Brookhaven (Dennis Puleston)

Below is a monthly breakdown of the station's 1973 banding season.

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 net hours	Species
Aug.	17	429	15	22	62	40
Sept.	29	654	31	80	65	63
Oct.	26	1377	34	145	132	63
Nov.	24	539	16	31	92	31
Dec.	7	25	4	6	16	7

Mr. Puleston writes the following:

In 1973 I was able to set up the nets in mid-August instead of being delayed until September 2nd, as in 1972. Except for a few days of adverse weather, or when absent on business, I was able to operate regularly all through the fall, until cold and bad weather forced me to close down for the season in mid-December.

My net lanes are located in a scrub woodland at the edge of an extensive spartina salt marsh on the Great South Bay, Long Island. I band only in the very early morning, from dawn until about 9:00 or 9:30 A.M.. After that time there is very little activity under normal conditions, as following their early feeding most birds scatter into many miles of suitable habitat inland.

I operated for a total of 103 days (75 in 1972), during which I banded 3024 individuals (1786 in 1972) of 87 species for 3,510 net hours, (2,680 in 1972). As usual at this station I had a heavy flight of swamp

sparrows, but this year it was even heavier than normal, as shown by the following totals: 1968 - 397, 1969 - 476, 1970 - 390, 1971 - 399, 1972 - 399, 1973 - 580. Undoubtedly I am on the major flyway for this species. The peak migration period for the swamp sparrow in Brookhaven is in the latter half of October but there is still a considerable movement until mid-November. There were big flights of goldfinches and pine siskins in the late fall; these birds feed on the seeds of seaside goldenrod and marsh elder, but apparently they do not need this food source every year, as it is only occasionally that they appear at the time that the seeds are ripe. When they do, however, flocks remain until every seed has been consumed.

In addition to the high numbers of swamp sparrows, the other most numerous birds at Mr. Puleston's station were song sparrow, 443; yellow-rumped warbler 329 (up from a low count in 1972 of 105 birds); yellow-throat, 309; and goldfinch 282. Two new species were added to the station list. One was a blue-gray gnatcatcher banded on September 28th, and the other a white-winged crossbill netted on November 7th.

Wadsworth Wildlife Sanctuary, Westport, Conn. (Robert Dewire)

The monthly breakdown is as follows:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 net hours	Species
Aug.	17	232	2	6	46	30
Sept.	16	382	0	10	105	51
Oct.	15	447	0	3	112	39

This year's operation was the same as last year in the use of net lanes and number of nets used, with a regular schedule of banding from sunrise to about 9:00 A.M. each day plus evening banding on days of good movement. Although less species and individuals were banded this year than in 1972, there was also a reduction in the hours of operation (338 hours in 1972 and 202 hours in 1973). Using birds per net hour as a criteria, the totals were higher this year in August and September (August, 46 in 1973 and 42 in 1972, September, 105 in 1973 and 73 in 1972) but lower in October (112 this year compared to 121 in 1972). The big factor affecting numbers here and accounting for the drop in birds in October was the almost total lack of yellow-rumped and blackpoll warblers. Blackpolls went from 59 birds banded in 1972 to only 7 this year and yellow-rumped warblers went from 166 in 1972 to 18. Warbler numbers otherwise remained about the same as last year. Removing yellow-rumped and blackpoll figures for both years we find the warbler totals to be 330 birds of 23 species in 1972 and 339 birds of 20 species in 1973. Three species of warblers increased noticeably. From 1972 to 1973 the changes were: Magnolia - 25 to 38; parula - 8 to 23; and black-and-white - 5 to 18.

There was a noticeable increase in the thrushes this year as the following table shows:

	1972	1973
Wood Thrush	0	10
Hermit Thrush	24	49
Swainson's Thrush	3	14
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	6
Veery	7	10

All of the more numerous sparrows were lower this year than last except swamp:

	1972	1973
White-throated Sparrow	96	54
Song Sparrow	85	47
Swamp Sparrow	30	34
Field Sparrow	28	17

The three most numerous species are the same as 1972 if you remove the yellow-rumped warbler from that year's top spot. They are gray catbird - 99; ruby-crowned kinglet - 82; and yellow-throat - 80. Two new species were added to the station list - white-eyed vireo and blackburnian warbler. This brings the total species list of the station since its start in 1971 to 86. Unusual nettings this year were a total of 6 Lincoln's sparrows in October, a Philadelphia vireo on September 27th and a Connecticut warbler on September 28th.

Although the station's operation began in 1971, only 3 nets were used that year so that number comparisons are difficult to make with the past two years. Declines from the 1971 total are comparable since getting less birds with an increase in nets does indicate numbers have decreased. Two species have decreased steadily since 1971. They are blue jay which has gone from 56 in 1971 to 23 in 1972 to 7 this year and rufous-sided towhee which has gone from 43 to 22 to 10. Chickadees have increased much the same as in other stations this year after the lack of movement in 1972 but a big flight in 1971. Totals here were 51, 21, 34.

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CORRECTION: The Editors of EBBA NEWS offer their apologies for three serious typing errors that appeared in Paul Woodward's article on page 127 of our Summer-Autumn 1974 issue. In the first paragraph, the word "fledgings" (line 3) and "fledging" (line 8) should read "fledglings" and "fledgling" respectively. In the second paragraph, "fledgings" (line 1) should read "fledglings". Additionally, the article was intended for publication under our "Banders' Shoptalk" masthead. It was not placed there for the reason that the masthead would not have fitted in this tightly spaced issue. This change was compounded by our failure to query the author for an appropriate title for his article.

F.S. Schaeffer, Ed.