Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

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The 1992 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION, will be on **March 27 - 29,** at the Keller Conference Center, Penn State University, State College, PA. For information contact **Janet Shaffer, Phone 814-356-3553.**

President's Message

First, I would like to express the sincere appreciation of EBBA to Roy Slack and Cathy Baumgartner-Slack for their tremendous effort in making the conference in Wilmington, Delaware a success. Unless you have arranged or assisted in arranging a conference, you cannot appreciate the amount of time and effort involved. The only improvement would be the attendance of more members.

One of the most important activities this year was the questionnaire that was sent to all EBBA members. Susannah Graedel did a great job in putting it together. The response was very gratifying; almost two-thirds of the membership filled out the form and returned them. I read most of them and found them very enlightening. Susannah's summary follows this President's Message. Some of the results have already been used. For example, the date of next year's conference has been moved to the end of March. Many members could not attend an April meeting due to banding operations during the spring migration. We will see all of you at the conference next year in State College, Pennsylvania. By the way, anyone wishing to contribute in any way to the conference, please contact 1st Vice President Janet Shaffer.

In order to keep up with rising expenses, the Council voted a modest increase in dues effective with the 1992 fiscal year. The new dues structure will be as follows:

Student	$10.00
Active Member	$15.00
Sustaining Member	$20.00
Institutional	$25.00
Life Member	$250.00

Mickie Mutchler, membership committee chairperson, informed the Council that the Bird Banding Laboratory reports there are 998 registered banders (including master permittees, sub-permittees, and institutional) in the EBBA region. Of those 998, 352 are currently members of EBBA. The only way to improve EBBA, NABB, and the banding effort in general, is to encourage all banders to join one of the three banding organizations. Please, as you meet fellow banders, ask if they are members; if they are not, ask them to join.

Another item brought to light by the questionnaire is the opinion that a cooperative banding project would be well received by the members. An Ad Hoc Committee will be appointed to explore the possibilities. Susannah Graedel will chair the committee.

Over the past several years, the *North American Bird Bander (NABB)* has seen various changes. I think everyone

will agree that the changes have been an improvement. Our Editor and NABB Production Coordinator Bob Pantle noted that publishing NABB is a tremendous effort put forth by many people in all three organizations. Bob informed the Council that the editor for IBBA, Dan Kramer, has resigned. Dan has done an excellent job and will be sorely missed. Bob also reiterated that the articles and graphics in NABB are contributed by banders, and the only way to improve is for you to contribute. Please consider writing an article or submitting some graphics.

Bob Sagar announced that two memorial grants were awarded this year in the amount of $250.00 each. One grant went to Ms. Bethany L. Woodworth from the University of Minnesota for a study of brood parasitism, and one to Mr. Jeffrey Wells from Cornell University for a study of grassland birds in the State of Maine.

In order to improve the organization, the workload of the officers and councillors must be spread over more members. If we all pick up our share, no one will be overloaded. If you can help in any way, please contact me. In the past we have lost valuable members because too much was expected and not enough assistance was provided. So if you are asked to assist on a committee, please consider your response carefully.

Gerald Lahr

EBBA BANDERS' QUESTIONNAIRE 1991
Summary of Responses

EBBA Council authorized the distribution of a questionnaire to its members for the purpose of eliciting information about members' banding projects and interests, their suggestions about plans for future EBBA meetings, and concerns and comments about EBBA and the BBL. Following is a summary of the responses received.

Questionnaires Returned: 202 (610 were mailed to EBBA members, January 1991)

Geographical Representation (home addresses): 28 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Ontario, Quebec, and the Yukon. States with more than 10 respondents: New York (42), Pennsylvania (26), Maryland (22), New Jersey (14), and Virginia (12).

How Long Respondents Have Banded:

Years:	1 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 or more
Banders:	6	13	21	65	35	27	8	6 (50-64 Yr.)

Type of Permit:

Master Bander: 149 Subpermittee: 25 Institutional Permit: 7

Times of Year Sites are Used for Banding Activity:

Only one season: 37	S: 13	F: 13	W: 7	Sp: 4
Two seasons: 63	Sp, F: 38	Sp, Su: 10	F, W: 5	Su, F: 5
	W, Sp: 3	Su, W: 2		
Three seasons: 35	W, Sp, F: 16	Sp, S, F: 17	W, Sp, S: 2	
All year: 60				

Number of Sites: One site: 130 Two sites: 24 Three or more: 20
Roadside raptor banding: 4

Community Types Represented:	No. of Sites:	Community Types Represented:	No. of Sites:
Deciduous Forest	78	Freshwater Marsh	19
Yard of Bander's Residence	75	Mixed (conifer and dec.) Forest	19
Old Field Successional	67	Pasture, Mowed Field, Garden	15
Edge (various\habitats)	48	Saltwater Marsh	11
Dune, Beach	22	Bog/Swamp/Mud Flat	7
Lake or major river	22	Boreal Forest	7
		Tropical Rainforest	2

Years Site Has Been Used for Banding:

Years:	1 - 3	4 - 5	6 - 9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	>49
Number of Sites:	35	15	28	63	33	12	2	2

Why the Bander Deems Site Useful:

High number of migrants:	47	Private/protected area, little disturbance:	21
Proximity to bander's home or work:	36	Abundance of species of special interest to bander:	16
Diverse habitat/species richness:	25	Useful for education and training:	18
Longevity (changes in avian parameters, successional changes, good return data):	27	Dependable sampling location:	16
Productive breeding habitat (includes nest box trails):	23	Special character of site:	7
		Field station/facilities:	7
		Disturbed habitat:	4

Species Most Frequently Banded:

Banders were asked to list their ten most frequently banded species. The number following each four-letter species code is the number of banders listing that species.

ABDU 2	AGWT 1	AMCR 1	AMGO 57	AMKE 13	AMRE 17	AMRO 15	AMWI 1	ARTE 1
ATPU 1	ATSP 13	BANA 1	BANS 1	BAOW 2	BARS 2	BAWW 3	BCCH 56	BHCO 6
BHNU 1	BLJA 21	BLPW 2	BLSK 2	BLSW 1	BOCH 2	BRBL 1	BRCH 4	BRPE 1
BRTH 2	BRTO 1	BTBW 5	BTNW 2	BWHA 2	BWWA 4	CACH 17	CAGO 2	CARW 9
CEDW 7	CERW 1	CEWA 2	CHSP 16	CMWA 4	COGR 10	COHA 11	CORA 1	CORE 5
COTE 3	COYE 35	CSWA 2	DOWO 7	DCCO 1	EABL 19	EAPH 4	EASO 1	ELTE 1
ETTI 28	EUST 1	EVGR 20	FICR 1	FISP 4	FOTE 1	GBBG 3	GCKI 12	GCFL 2
CHOW 1	COEA 1	GRAJ 2	GRCA 52	GREG 1	GRSC 1	HAWO 1	HERG 3	HETH 7
HOFI 56	HOSP 3	HOWA 4	HOWR 6	INBU 5	KEWA 2	LAGU 2	LBHE 1	LEFL 1
LEOW 1	LESA 1	LESC 1	LETE 1	LHSP 1	LISP 1	LOWA 1	MALL 2	MAWA 17
MERL 4	MODO 14	MYWA 34	NAWA 3	NOCA 29	NOGO 7	NOHA 3	NOMO 2	NOWA 6
NSWO 2	OSPR 1	OVEN 15	PABU 1	PEFA 1	PISI 27	PIWA 1	PRAW 1	PROW 2
PRTA 1	PUFI 29	PUMA 3	RBGR 3	RBGU 2	RBNU 9	RBWO 1	RCKI 18	REVI 14
RLHA 1	ROSS 1	ROST 1	ROYT 2	RSHA 5	RSTO 4	RTHA 13	RTHU 1	RUQD 1
RWBL 10	SATE 1	SASP 1	SCJA 2	SCJU 66	SCTA 1	SESA 1	SNBU 1	SNEG 1
SOSP 49	SPDO 1	SPSA 1	SSHA 16	SWSP 3	SWTH 13	SWWA 1	TEWA 5	TRES 10
TRHE 1	VEER 7	WBNU 12	WCSP 5	WEVI 10	WESA 1	WEWA 2	WHIB 1	WODU 1
WOWA 1	WOTH 7	WPWA 2	WTSP 65	YBFL 1	YWAR 9			

The Twelve Most Frequently Banded Species (from above list):

SCJU 66	WTSP 65	AMGO 57	BCCH 56	HOFI 56	GRCA 52	SOSP 49
COYE 35	MYWA 34	NOCA 29	PUFI 29	PISI 27		

Number of Birds Banders Typically Band Each Year:

Birds (hundreds):	<1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10
Number of Banders:	22	15	23	18	7	10	9	6	3	2

Birds (thousands):	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	>10
Number of Banders:	22	13	7	3	3	2	0	1	0	1

Types of Birds Banded:

100% small birds: 83 banders
100% raptors: 8 banders
100% shorebirds/colonial waterbirds/seabirds: 5 banders
100% waterfowl: 2 banders
90+% small birds plus other types: 59 banders
Various percentages of two or more types: 17 banders

Aspect(s) of Ornithology of Interest to Bander:

Migration: 107 Population Studies: 107 Breeding/Productivity: 82
One aspect: 80 More than one aspect: 93

Categories of Individual Projects/Interests:

Breeding ecology: 43 (22 participate or anticipate participation in MAP)
Longevity/site fidelity: 35
Single species focus: 32
Population dynamics (recruitment/survival): 30
Dispersal/local movements/irruptions/range expansion: 25
Variation over time in number of birds banded at a single site and the possible ecological implications of the variation: 25
Morphometric and plumage parameters:22
Education/demonstrations/training: 20
Success of restoration efforts (nest boxes/rehab/etc.): 19
Avian parasites and diseases: 8
Migrant ecology of selected species: 8
Behavior: 7
Data analysis methods: 3
Ecological consequences of island biogeography: 3
Radio telemetry: 3
Vocalization: 3

Do Banders See Value in a Cooperative Banding Project? Yes: 126 No: 3

Summary of Comments Regarding Cooperative Projects:

MAP, Operation Recovery, WBBA's WCSP Project, and Ontario Banding Association HOFI Project suggested as models.
Concentrate on one or two commonly caught species in the beginning.
Good opportunity to share return data.
Morphometric studies on commonly caught species.
Could shed light on local movements.
Good opportunity for sub-permittees.

Project would require dynamic and innovative leadership. BBL and professional ornithologists should be involved.
Could involve banders whose sample sizes are inadequate for analysis.
A project involving avian-borne ticks would be valuable in assessing role of birds in tick range expansion.
A list of participants would facilitate communication among banders.
Could encourage a shift from solitary small sites which are often staffed infrequently to cooperatively staffed sites which would yield more and better data.
Many banders are looking for such a project.
Project would require standardization of techniques and banders would benefit from instruction.
Project would facilitate EBBA's present focussed, comparative analyses of data.
Would stimulate members to attend EBBA meetings.
Gulls, because of their good recovery rate, and species currently included in nestbox banding programs would be good focal species.

Attended EBBA Annual Meetings Within Last Three Years: Yes: 49 No: 130

Reasons cited for non-attendance:

Location:	63
Time of year:	43
Too busy:	36
Cost:	31
Day of week:	9
Focus of program:	7

Summary of Suggestions for EBBA Meetings:

Meeting "nuts and bolts":
Get publicity out early.
Meeting jointly with other ornithological associations to increase attendance.
Have regional meetings within EBBA. Perhaps alternate full membership meeting with years in which regional meetings are held.
Vary types of setting and accommodation. Cost will vary accordingly.
Meet periodically at a site near BBL.
Experiment by varying the time of year in which the meeting is held.

Program:
Have a theme (central focus) for each meeting.
Continue to solicit high quality papers.
Suggested topics:
- Cooperative project concepts (BBL could be helpful here.)
- Current trends and directions in research

Research project design (constant effort, long-term studies)
- Computer applications for banders
- Ecological consequences of pesticides/pollution/habitat degradation
- Population trends (Chan Robbins, USF&W)

Hands-on workshops (vary these year to year):
- Fat scoring
- BBL manual use
- Hard-to-identify species
- Bird handling techniques
- Molt-related topics
- Skulling techniques
- Publishing data
- Trapping/netting techniques

Other suggestions:
Sponsor a week-long conference on location: "Hands-on Band and Learn" (a "band-in")
Publish the report of EBBA meetings in *NABB*
Welcome and involve new members and those attending for the first time who may not know many members.
Provide activities for non-bander spouses.
Encourage vendor displays.

What Banders Read in *NABB*:

All of it: 70 Most of it: 26

Some respondents who said they read only some of *NABB* mentioned the sections that most interested them. Ordered by frequency of being mentioned, these are listed below:

Major articles
Items related to bander's particular interest
Techniques-related items
Books and Recent Literature
EBBA News
Regional Reports
Short notes: "News, Notes and Comments"; "Banders' Forum"
Returns/longevity
Banders' Marketplace

Banders' Suggestions Regarding *NABB* :

Include a short editorial about an issue affecting banders on a national or international scale.
Facilitate cooperative project reports and updates.
Have a single editor for the scientific articles.
More articles relating to or useful to public education (more photos).
Return to "correspondence type" format to encourage input from members who feel distanced from a scientific journal.
Expand the "News, Notes and Comments" section.
Encourage age/sex articles, as these spawn research ideas.
Include information related to welfare of birds after being captured.
Strong conflicting opinions on value of site reports and regional summaries.
More on recaptures/encounters.
Report of banding associations' annual meetings; summaries of papers.
More information about publishing in *NABB*.
How to set up a study; simple statistical methods; simple data analysis.

Would bander be interested in publishing in *NABB* ?

Yes: 67 No: 28 Perhaps: 22

***NABB* Format and Content:**

Improved in the last few years? Yes: 95 No: 11

This is a summary of the many comments received from banders. The topics included in the summary were mentioned or alluded to by several people. This summary is, of necessity, brief and does not address every concern expressed in the questionnaire.

Banders are eager for an update of the banding manual's age and sex keys and for the addition of species not included.

Questionnaire responders expressed an interest in exploring ways in which BBL might suggest and/or help coordinate a cooperative banding study involving EBBA members who would like to participate.

BBL is the repository for data from decades of banding. The timely providing of information and analysis to banders seeking data for projects is a unique and vital service. As BBL's retrieval and storage capabilities are upgraded, banders expect that they will see increased efficiency in BBL's ability to process banders' requests for data.

Banders see a need for the BBL to support a wide variety of banding projects. Future researchers may lack the necessary data if the current level of data production from banders is not maintained.

Banders would like to see the BBL develop a mechanism for the storage of return data.

Banders would like to know if, in the BBL's opinion, there are species or habitats that are not currently being adequately sampled through banding activity and that would benefit from being the focus of a project.

Through BBL's identifying conservation needs, it could help generate public support for conservation of habitats. Banders said that banding demonstration programs are a valuable vehicle for promoting public support for conservation programs.

Banders want the BBL to continue encouraging banders to use computers for data storage and schedule production. BBL personnel might lead workshops at banding association meetings.

Banders congratulate the BBL for the streamlining of the very useful alphanumeric species code system.

Questionnaire results compiled and summarized by **Susannah Graedel**, EBBA Councilor, March, 1991

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1

Mickie Mutchler, Coordinator
195 Baer Road
Forestburgh, NY 12777

I regret to inform you that one of our faithful reporters, Russell T. "Ozzie" Norris, died on Saturday, February 2, 1991. He had a 30-year career of service with the federal government providing leadership and direction to various programs protecting fish and wildlife and their habitats from degradation and destruction. He received numerous awards in recognition of his superior leadership to programs and activities ensuring environmental integrity and fishery conservation. Mr. Norris was an avid birder and banded birds for many years. We will miss his input.

On a happier note, we have heard from Margery Plymire. She has moved to Martinsville, Maine, and has started to band again (no more cats!). A seven-day sampling, from 7 to 22 October: 7 Black-capped Chickadees; 6 Brown Creepers; 5 each Blackpoll Warblers and Song Sparrows; 2 each of Hermit Thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Blue Jays; and 1 each of Yellow-shafted Flicker, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, and Wood Thrush--44 individuals in 217.5 net hours. We look forward to her report next year for it looks like a very promising area.

Although a report from the southeast does not belong in Region 1, I have added it to our area report in the hope that there are others in the southeast who would be interested in submitting reports. I would be happy to have anyone contact me for information. I wish to thank Evelyn Dabbs and Lex Glover for their efforts.

Region 1 has room for more station reports.

The following reports speak for themselves and I have little to add. Table 1 shows the apparent decreases seen at all stations.

TABLE 1.	Atlantic Flyway Summary - Region 1.				
	Block Island, RI	**Kingston, RI**	**Nantucket, MA**	**Appledore Is., ME**	**Black River Swamp, SC**
Days of Operation	52	71	36	36	39
Number of Nets Used	3-13	2-4	1-15.5	6-10	8-10
Total Net Hours	5110	1035	2210	2984	427.5
Largest Daily Catch	94*	27	90	120	132
Birds Banded, 1989	1906	612	1645	2167	**
Birds Banded, 1990	1079	505	541	1257	1910
Different Species, 1989	71	62	79	70	**
Different Species, 1990	75	52	79	66	79
Birds/100 n.h. 1989	42	63	40	68	**
Birds/100 n.h. 1990	21*	49	24	42	4

* See station report.

** There is no 1989 information since this is the first year of banding for Black River Swamp, SC.

Table II. Most Common Species Banded

Block Island, R.I.		**Kingston, R.I.**		**Nantucket, MA**		**Appledore Is., ME**		**Black River Swamp, SC**	
Yel-rmp. Warb.	180	Wh-thr. Spar.	86	Yel-rmp. Warb	118	Com. Yelthr.	180	Tuf.Titmouse	178
G.Catbird	168	G.Catbird	54	G.Catbird	59	Song Spar.	116	Com.Yelthr.	176
Com.Yelthr.	59	D-E.Junco	36	Com.Yelthr.	49	No.Waterthr.	97	No.Cardinal	148
Red-eyed Vireo	53	Bl-cp.Chickadee	33	Song Spar.	49	Red-eyed Vireo	94	Indigo Bunting	95
G-cr.Kinglet	51	Yel-rmp.Warb.	33	Blackpoll Warb.	33	Am.Redstart	90	Red-eyed Vireo	78
Bl-thr Blue Warb.	48	Com.Yelthr.	33	Bl-cap Chickadee	19	Yellow Warb.	86	Am.Redstart	77
Wh-thr. Sparrow	44	Blue-wg. Warb.	20	Red-br. Nut.	19	G.Catbird	50	No.Parula	75
Am.Redstart	31	R-cr.Kinglet	19	Rf-sd. Towhee	18	Blackpoll Warb.	34	No.Waterthr.	74
R-cr. Kinglet	27	Am.Redstart	18	Cape May Warb.	12	B & W Warb.	33	Swainson's Thr.	58
Song Spar.	27	No. Cardinal	18	Am.Robin	12	Least Fly.	32	Veery	47

Block Island, RI **411-0713**

Elsie Lapham

This fall we banded continuously for 52 days, 8 September through 17 October 1990 and again for several days in late October and November. We had a discouraging start. In all of September, only 282 birds were netted while in 1989, for the same period, we banded 506. The weather was beautiful for humans, warm and sunny with south to

southeast winds. This delightful weather does not bring large groups of birds to Block Island. On 18 September, a north wind brought the first wave, but the wind returned to the south the next day, and it was not until 3 October that we had another NW wind and nets full of birds.

After increases over the last three years in the numbers of birds caught, it was discouraging to see the numbers decline again. This year, we banded 825 less birds than in 1989 although the total was not as low as the 923 banded in 1986.

Yellow-rumped Warblers beat out Catbirds for first place. We banded 180 and 847 were released for lack of time and help. On 17 October, 301 were netted but 222 were released unbanded. If we had included the 847 birds released unbanded, it would have equaled 38 birds/100 net hours.

The resident Catbirds caught in September were very much younger than those we normally get and perhaps came from a second nesting. The very wet and cold spring here may have contributed to failed first nesting and the remarkable drop from 413 banded in 1989 to the 168 this year.

Decreases noted in other species were Brown Creepers, 71 in 1989 to 13 in 1990; Winter Wrens down by 5; Golden-crowned Kinglets, 251 less; Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 47 less; Hermit Thrush down by half; and Red-eyed Vireos by two-thirds. But on the optimistic side, there were 11 more Eastern Phoebes and a small increase in Red-breasted Nuthatches. Three Brown Thrashers were caught this year, but none in 1989.

The one recovery reported was a Gray Catbird netted in Islip Long Island, NY.

A nice surprise was two Northern Saw-whet Owls in the net at the same time. The male and female gave us a good comparison of the difference in size. Six altogether was a record catch for this species.

Another surprise was to find a Whip-poor-will in the net one sunny afternoon. It was only the third one we have had in 23 years of banding.

Four black bats and a Harrier produced quite different problems in extracting them from the nets.

Kingston, RI **412-0713**

Douglas Kraus

The nets were operated daily for the first four hours of the morning between 9 August and 31 October 1990. Intermittent netting was performed in November and December.

The birds/100 n.h. for August, September, and October were, respectively, 33, 20, and 71, as compared to the previous ten-year averages of 56, 54, and 84. The percentage reductions for these months: 41, 63, and 15. These are the lowest banding rates for these three months in the 35 years of operation.

The weather certainly accounted for some of this decrease. It rained on three days in August, two in September, and six in October. It was very hot and humid with almost no bird activity on four days in August, three in September, and two in October. Almost no cold fronts moved through producing NW winds until October.

There has been a steady decrease in the banding rates since the beginning of the 1980's. This is evident in the table below of the banding rates averaged over ten-year intervals for the periods ending in 1970-1990. Definitely fewer birds are passing through the banding station now. Whether this is due to an overall decrease in bird population or to local changes in habitat at the station over the 31 years during which the data were gathered, cannot be said with certainty. If other stations in the east note a similar trend using their data for this time period, a population decline is probable.

Average Banding Rates Over 20 Years

Interval Ending	Birds/ 100 nh	Interval Ending	Birds/ 100 nh	Interval Ending	Birds/ 100 nh
1970	133	1977	133	1984	76
1971	143	1978	119	1985	74
1972	136	1979	114	1986	67
1973	132	1980	97	1987	63
1974	129	1981	83	1988	65
1975	130	1982	80	1989	60
1976	132	1983	77	1990	55

Strong cold fronts moved through in October producing 27 bandings on the 15th, and 22 each on the 19th and 20th.

For most species, the number banded decreased. For a few, it increased but not significantly. There were 49 returns and 91 repeats, but no recoveries or significant captures.

I wish to express my thanks to Miss Lisa Jordon for her cheerful and capable assistance in the operation of this banding station.

Nantucket, MA **411-0700 & 411-0701**
Edith Andrews

In 1989, the Nantucket station was operated almost daily from 2-28 September at Mothball Pines (411-0700). From 8 to 15.5 nets were used, for a total of 2121 net hours. An additional ten days were spent at Ice Pond Lot (411-0701) where from one to six nets were operated for ten days from 8 October to 1 November, for a total of 89 net hours. The September total banded was 331, nine of these were shorebirds taken at a different location. The total banded at Ice Pond was 210.

The lack of warblers was appalling. Notable decreases compared with last year as follows:

	1990	1989
Yellow Warbler	3	49
Magnolia Warbler	1	7
Cape May Warbler	12	79
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	1	17
Prairie Warbler	2	14
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	31
Black & White Wabler	1	14
American Redstart	1	42
Ovenbird	1	7
Northern Waterthrush	2	19

In addition to the 118 Yellow-rumped Warblers banded, 374 were released unbanded but there were no notable increases.

Missing completely among the warblers were: Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green and Western Palm.

Flycatchers were down: no Yellow-Bellied, no Traill's and only three Least. Red-eyed Vireo, the only vireo represented, with a total of eight compared with 24 in 1989. No Scarlet Tanager; no Lincoln's Sparrow.

Highlights were a female Hooded Warbler and a Connecticut Warbler. We continue to have Yellow-breasted Chats in what appear to be normal numbers, i.e.: 7 in 1989 and 8 in 1990.

There were 168 repeats and 12 returns. One, a Common Yellowthroat, banded as an AHY in 1983. A HY-F Cape May Warbler, banded at Mothball on 09-09-89, was trapped and released on 10-27-89 in Blanquisal, Cuba. Part of the poor season might be attributed to weather. There were really no good, strong cold fronts.

Appledore Island, ME **425-0703**
Shoals Marine Lab.
David Holmes

We rejoice! The Shoals Lab Banding Station lives--at least through 1991. We found a graduate student at Cornell University (Sara Robertson) who had an inactive banding permit, substantial experience, and a project idea very similar to the one I have been collecting data for but have not had the equipment with which to work it up. Her permit was reactivated, I became her sub (don't you love bureaucracy!), she gets years of good, clean data, I get my data worked up (she knows statistics!), she gets a degree, and we expect to get a joint publication. What a win-win situation!

And then, there was reality. Fall 1990 on Appledore was the pits! The weather and winds were average. The mosquitoes were the worst we can remember, but so what. The fall webworms were back in force for the third year in a row, but they don't prevent birds from landing on the Island. There were just no birds.

We ran our standard ten nets in the standard locations although our outlying nets were in operation a bit less than usual because of lack of help. We were on the Island five days longer than last year (16 August through 20 September). We lost only one day to rain, and we caught about half the number of birds we expected.

We enjoyed only two days of over 100 birds: 16 August with 104 and 27 August with 120. No other day came close. We have always had a week around the first of September in which the slowest day brought nearly 100 birds; 7 September gave us a new record low! We caught six new birds in our whole day of netting. This fall there were nine days with under 20 new birds. In our nine previous fall banding seasons, only one day in 1988 and three in 1986 were as slow.

Interesting species were the Hooded Warbler (first banded on Island) and the early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (first for our station). We greatly enjoyed 27 August for the Hooded Warbler, along with ten Blue-winged and 17 Chestnut-sided Warblers (unprecedented numbers for a single day). We also banded our second White-breasted Nuthatch. Two Worm-eating and two Kentucky Warblers were our southern tourists this year.

Interesting for their absence were Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Veeries, Solitary Vireos, Myrtle and Palm Warblers. The migration seemed quite late as well as scant.

The species which more or less held their own were resident nesters and birds which are almost exclusively scrub lovers. Our new season high numbers this year were the eight Yellow-breasted Chats (previous high, 7), ten Carolina Wrens (local nesters), and four Swamp Sparrows (possible nesters). This leaves me concerned about the nesting season up north.

We enjoyed our nine returns including our first Yellow Warbler (probably nested), but this total pales beside the spring season's 18. We have received word on two more Appledore recoveries: a Blue-winged Warbler banded 24 August 1988 was found dead in Wethersfield, CT, on 29 April 1990, and a Common Yellowthroat banded 27 August 1989 hit a car windshield on the Coastal Highway in Rye, NH, on 1 June 1990 (as close as it could get to the Isles while still on the mainland). These were our sixth and seventh recoveries since 1981.

We expect to run as usual next year and then it is back to square one.

Black River Swamp Banding Station 335-0801
Sumter County, SC
Evelyn Dabbs and Lex Glover

The 1990 fall season saw the first extensive banding project done at this site. In the past, most of the banding done here was in conjunction with educational demonstrations. On these occasions, we opened the mist nets on the average of four hours and most of the banding was done in the morning. However, for the fall banding project, we began with a few demonstrations and increased to banding several days consecutively during cold front passages.

We banded on 39 days between the dates of 7 August through 21 October 1990. Thirty of those days were "full days," with nets opened from dawn to dusk. The remaining nine days were "half days."

We cannot make any conclusive statements about the data collected after one season's banding. As the project progressed, many questions arose which initiated data collecting; the data included recaptures, returns, daily peak hours, and ratio of morning to afternoon captures, etc. Next year, we hope to expand our data in these categories and begin to formulate answers to our questions.

This project began with the movement of Prothonotary Warblers in the area. We decided to end the project with the arrival of winter residents. Next year, we will probably extend our dates, as some migrants were still present at the end of the project.

There were 1,910 birds banded, representing 79 species and comprising 15 families. The daily number of birds banded peaked at 132 on 2 October; we banded 30 species that day. The daily number of species banded peaked at 32 on 25 September. That day, 94 birds were banded. On "full days," averaging 12 banding hours, the average number of species banded was 21 and the number of individuals averaged 58. Highlights from the migrating species netted were: Broad-winged Hawk; Black-billed Cuckoo; Philadelphia Vireo; Golden-winged, Nashville, and Connecticut Warblers; and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Mist nets were the only means of capture for this project. During the banding project, eight to ten nets were used. For the first 16 days, eight nets were used and for the remaining 23 days, ten nets were used. Mist nets used were nylon, tethered top, 12 meters in length, with 1¼" and 1½" mesh. A couple of six and nine meter nets were also used. Banding hours for the 39 days totaled 427½. As mentioned earlier, 30 days were "full days," when nets were opened dawn to dusk, averaging 12 hours. The remaining nine days were "half days," when nets were closed early due to weather, personal reasons, etc., and averaged four hours when opened. Nets were set up in various habitats on the site (i.e., hedgerow, swamp bottom, and bluff edges). A couple of nets were set up around well-maintained and active feeding stations. For the most part, the nets were stationary during the project; however, as activity in some areas increased (sometimes with a particular species, i.e., Palm Warbler), we moved nets from less-active to more-active areas.

The banding site is approximately 11 acres in size and is located on the Black River Swamp, approximately thirteen miles east of Sumter, Sumter County, South Carolina. This upper coastal plain habitat is characterized by Bald Cypress and Water Tupelo swamps, mixed hardwoods, pine bluffs, and agricultural fields. There was an abundance of natural food this season in the form of berries (i.e., Pokeweed, French Mulberry, etc.) and weed seeds. This unusual abundance was due to habitat destruction and alteration from Hurricane Hugo, 1989.

The most notable return was a Blue Jay that was banded over 11 years ago as an AHY in 1979 at this location. This was its first recapture.