

SPRING MIGRATION BANDING AT ISLAND BEACH, NEW JERSEY

By Dr. Kenneth W. Prescott

The New Jersey State Museum Staff has been interested in testing the feasibility of conducting an annual spring migration operation recovery type of bird banding program at Island Beach, New Jersey. Consideration of the great number of birds banded there each fall suggested that it might be fruitful to test the spring migration in some of the same net lanes in hopes of recoveries of fall-banded birds as well as an indication of the species and numbers of individuals utilizing Island Beach in the northward migration.

Bruce Adams, my co-bander Irma Ireland, and helper Daniel O'Brien banded for fourteen days in May 1968 from May 4 to 27, inclusive. Together we banded 1,582 birds of 66 species. (Ireland banded 746, Adams 704 and Prescott 132.)

The flights in May were unexpectedly impressive. Bruce Adams regarded the May 19 and 26 warbler flights greater than any August or September flight he had seen in nine years of fall banding at Island Beach. This is indicated by comparing our percentage of warblers banded this spring (79.4%) with last fall's warbler percentage of 51.1% for August (2 weeks) through September 30.

A brief summary of the 14-day operation is given below:

<u>Date (May 1968)</u>	<u>No. of Species</u>	<u>Birds Banded</u>	<u>Net Hours</u>
4	8	19	28
5	6	8	21
11	9	20	54
12	4	7	13
18	32	123	108
19	39	274	169
20	16	25	55
21	28	74	88
22	35	189	178
23	30	292	74
24	27	221	117
25	12	34	90
26	33	287	84
27	4	10	38

A list follows, of species of which more than ten individuals banded; it can readily be seen that four species of warbler (the first four mentioned) account for approximately 52% of all the birds banded.

Yellowthroat	326	Swamp Sparrow	27
Magnolia Warbler	219	Red-eyed Vireo	22
Blackpoll Warbler	156	Swainson's Thrush	19
Redstart	124	Bay-breasted Warbler	19
Catbird	102	Ovenbird	19
Canada Warbler	67	Black-throated Green Warbler	18
Wilson's Warbler	61	Chestnut-sided Warbler	17
Parula Warbler	53	White-throated Sparrow	17
Yellow Warbler	38	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	15
Northern Waterthrush	37	Baltimore Oriole	12
Black & White Warbler	36	Gray-cheeked Thrush	11
Black-throated Blue Warbler	28	Blackburnian Warbler	11

Utilizing IBOR lists from previous years of band numbers which banders "intended" to use for a given year, the following is a tentative list of 32 returns:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of Returns</u>	<u>Year Banded</u>
Catbird	18	'62, '65 (2), '67 (15)
Yellowthroat	7	'57, '66 (2), '67 (4)
Rufous-sided Towhee	4	'64, '65 (2), '67
Song Sparrow	3	'64, '67 (2)

As of this writing, we had one recovery. Irma Ireland netted an American Redstart, AHY-M, at noon, May 19, 1968. It had been banded by Rebecca Cregar as an adult male on September 4, 1964 at Isleboro, Waldo County, Maine.

Based on this test operation, the State Museum definitely plans for a five to six week banding operation next spring commencing the last week in April and extending through May. The project will be conducted in co-operation with the New Jersey State Department of Conservation and conducted by the State Museum. Interested banders are welcomed, of course, and should direct their inquiries to the State Museum, to the attention of the author (who is Director of the State Museum -Ed.).

The Museum is grateful to the New Jersey State Department of Conservation for cooperating with the project and particularly to Bruce Adams without whom the project could not have been so successful.

N.J. State Museum, Cultural Center, Trenton, N.J. 08625

