

returns, there were also some expected returns of song sparrows, yellowthroats, american redstarts and a few other species. In addition, the first station returns for Least and Traill's Flycatcher and Yellow-throated Vireo were recorded. The Vireo was one of only one of two ever banded (spring '69) until a third was banded this spring.

The best weekend of the month was the first, by far. April had been a cold, rainy month that led to a heavy Tree Swallow mortality. Finally, in its last week it moderated with suddenness into the 80's and birds flooded north in a great hurry to bring up-to-date what had been, to that point, a tardy migration. On Friday evening, May 1st, 74 birds were banded and 12 returns captured in 123 net-hours (0.60 birds banded/n-h or 0.70 captures/n-h). On the next day, 246 birds were banded and 33 returns captured (0.69 birds banded/n-h or 0.78 captures/n-h) in 357 n-h. The remaining weekend produced only average yields to give the final monthly average of 0.47 b/n-h, or, including returns, 0.55 c/n-h).

The banding was done by Will D. Merritt, Jr.; Robert J. Pantle and his wife; and myself with my father's (Peter J. Yunick) help. On May 9, in addition to 128 new birds and 24 returns, we had 75-100 members and guests of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, and on May 16 a group of about 30 Union College students to view the banding.

The more unusual captures including a blue-winged and mourning warbler and yellow-breasted chat. Unusual to us also when we first began the spring banding and compared its results to those of the fall, were some of the differences in abundance of certain species between the two seasons. We have now come to accept these as not so unusual. One of the most notable is the white-throated sparrow. By not banding in April we miss part of the white-throat migration, however, since the migration of this species, peaks during May 5 to 10, we expected to catch moderate numbers of the species, based on its fall abundance. However, when one compares 39 birds this spring in 1550 net-hours against last fall's 510 in 3810 net hours (0.025/n-h in spring vs. 0.13/n-h in fall), it is apparent that there is a marked difference in abundance. This difference is further accentuated when one eliminates those fall net-hours prior to the beginning of the white-throat migration. By counting only from mid-September to the end of October, 508 white-throats were banded in 2073 net-hours (0.25/n-h) indicating an approximately ten fold difference.

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MANOMET BIRD OBSERVATORY SPRING SUMMARY
By Wayne R. Petersen, Staff Biologist - MBO

Southeastern Massachusetts has long been considered an avian desert for spring migration, especially for those tropical winterers bound for

Canadian Zone breeding grounds. Banding data from the Manomet Bird Observatory for the 1970 spring migration suggests that this "desert effect" may not be as pronounced as at one time believed. Of the 334 warblers banded in the period of April-June, 222 were of the resident Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat and Redstart category. Of the remainder, 129 were Magnolia, Blackpoll, Mourning, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers. This figure is high enough to suggest that there may be a distinct contingent of these species which don't deliberately avoid the Southeastern coastal route like the Parula, Myrtle, Black-throated Green and Chestnut sided Warblers seem to do. This is given further substantiation in that these birds were obtained over the whole migration period and note merely on one or two days of "freak" conditions. Continued spring banding at Manomet should further help elucidate this situation.

Other highlights at MBO were the capture of two hybrid Flickers, an almost regular migration specialty at MBO. Data obtained on these clinal variants shall eventually be published as a separate paper. Late returning Boreal Chickadees on 31 May and 11 June were stragglers from the incursion of the preceding fall and winter. Eight White-eyed Vireos were netted in May, some of which were color banded to help better appraise their breeding status at the Observatory.

The most impressive single days at MBO, were 23 and 24 May and 8 and 9 June. 141 individuals were banded on 23 May and on 8 June, 15 Mourning Warblers and 16 Empidonax flycatchers were netted. A total of 17 Mourning for a two day period, 8 and 9 June, is undoubtedly an all time high for southern New England.

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On page 259 of this issue, we indicated a reorganization of AFR. Every fall, about 40 stations participate in banding of migratory birds. Reports of these activities are generally printed in EBBA News, under the masthead of "Atlantic Flyway Review", the year following the year of banding. Up to now this was done by one person, myself. We have divided the forty stations in six groups and each group will be headed by a regional coordinator. He will collect all the reports and forward them to me, to meet the deadline of the particular issue of EBBA News, his story is slated for. He will contact each station leader in his group personally (by mail) and advise you what to do. A list of the regions, stations in each region and coordinators will be found on page 251 of this issue. Continued on page 251. (Editor)