



ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW

(Region III)

Edited by Frederick S. Schaeffer

Region III consists of all banding stations on Long Island, New York and a station at New Bedford, N.Y., and Greenwich, Conn. Unfortunately, we hear from David Junkin, who operates the two stations which are not on Long Island, that his operation was so limited in 1970 that he does not care to go into any details.

One aspect which drew some of these new (i.e. new in print) stations to AFR is their participation in Project AMFO. Unfortunately, and you'll have read Emil Berger's President's Message in the last issue, it is impossible for me to continue with both jobs. Either it is going to be AMFO, or it is going to be EBBA NEWS. I chose the latter because it has become so much of a part of my everyday life, that it would be much harder to give up, than the other. Despite the fall of AMFO (and I do not know if anyone will come forward to accept responsibility for it), I hope that we can keep Atlantic Flyway Review going; it seems to work out pretty well, using the various people as editors, who are most familiar with the area they are covering.

As to the Long Island area, I am sincerely hoping that one of the regular banders in this area will come forward to volunteer to take over Region III for 1971 coverage (next year). Although I used to be an active Long Island Bander from 1964 thru 1969, I've been active in Mercer County, New Jersey since then and have not visited the banding sites on Long Island since February of 1970. I feel, I'm therefore no longer qualified to do the report for Region III (besides which, I'm much too busy for it, with EBBA News in general). Anyone interested? Please let me know, thank you.

We are dealing with six banding stations in this report. To name them from East to West (all on Long Island): Tiana Beach (Suffolk Cty), Manorville (Suffolk), Brookhaven (Suffolk), Fire Island Research Station, (Suffolk), John F. Kennedy Sanctuary, Tobay Beach (Nassau County) and Atlantic Beach in Nassau County.

Every year, in the January 1971 issue of The Kingbird, Thomas H. Davis and Lee Morgan, used to write up the statistical data gathered at the banding stations on Long Island. They did a very fine job, but this year, we find this sad note: "This is one of the shortest fall reports we have written, due primarily to the lack of banding station reports and the numerical data their daily summaries provided. Several stations still operate, but not in the government sponsored "Operation Recovery" program, hence there is no pressure to compile statistical data." Surely, EBBA feels, if you have pride in your stations (and not just those on Long Island), the first thing you'd do, is issue a sta-

tistical summary. We received complete statistical summaries (day-by-day) so far (it is April 6, 1971 as I'm typing this) from only one Long Island station: Tiana Beach. From JFK Refuge we received a monthly one.

Since I have so little data for this column, I would like to thank Davis and Morgan for the fine job they did in their Region 10 report for The Kingbird(21(1):41-43), because that's where most of the field notes below have been taken from. Reports for all stations will be covered separately further on in this column.

Field Notes

(From Davis and Morgan): "Four incidents and/or factors contribute heavily to this fall report: 1) a heavy "kill" at the Empire State Building the night of September 27-28." "2) A fantastic drift of migration the weekend of October 17-18. At Jones Beach, the dawn of the 17th observers noted the gulls "feasting" on exhausted migrants flying in from the ocean, on the 18th a station high of 1200 birds was netted and banded at Tobay Sanctuary. Also, the winds were doubtlessly responsible for two western vagrants, both new to the Region." "3) A good November seabird flight with better than average numbers of alcids and an accidental northern procellariid (Fulmar on Nov. 28 by David Sonneborn)." "4) the gross number of rarities, 11 accidental species were reported. The affinities were as follows: western-5; northern-2; southern-2; and European-2.

Although it is not our wish to reproduce the entire Davis/Morgan column (though certainly it is worth it), the following data in A.O.U. order has been based on that column but pertains mainly to banding data.

Parasitic Jaeger: A bird collected at Fire Island Research Station, Sep. 24 had been banded as a nestling July 7, 1969 at Fair Isle, Scotland (L.Rems), maximum 13 on September 27th at Fire Island. (observed).

Philadelphia Vireo: maximum 8, September 20th, Fire Island Research Station-highest regional record.

Yellow Warbler: October 24, Fire Isl. R.S., injured bird, coll. for Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., latest regional record.

Audubon's Warbler: Banded, photographed (further details will be prepared for publication, presumably in Kingbird) at Tobay Sanctuary, by Anthony J. Lauro. Photographed by Paul A. Buckley; also seen by Robert Arbib.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Very rare along coast: 3- netted August 1, at Manorville (G. Raynor); immature on August 8th, Fire Isl. Res. Sta.

Western Tanager: Adult Male collected Fire Isl. R.S., specimen donated to Amer. Mus. Nat. History in New York City.

Lark Bunting: Fire Isl R.S. (T.H. Davis, F. Heath) September 19th, observed, not banded.

LeContes' Sparrow: netted Oct. 18th, Tobay Sanctuary (A.J. Lauro, Paul Buckley, Robert Arbib, et al), 2nd state record, photographed (P. Buckley), further details to be prepared for publication.

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Tiana Beach (Leroy Wilcox)

1970, due to limited coverage and other factors, was one, if not the lowest season at this station: 605 individuals in 152 net hours: 43 species.

What is of interest, is a note which Leroy sent me along with his brief, but daily, summary, which contains the following:

"I have a recovery for Herring Gull that is somewhat interesting. It was a young bird banded July 6, 1964 on Gardiners Island, N.Y., and shot December 14, 1969, at Bradford Island, Antioch, California."

Other interesting records include the following: Field Sparrow, banded at Tiana on October 28, 1969 (112-61614), recovered at Southern Pines, N.C. on January 23, 1969.

Indigo Bunting, banded at East Moriches on September 19, 1969 (70-75212) recovered at Wolcott, Conn. June 26, 1970.

Song Sparrow, banded at Tiana on October 8, 1968(103-131366), recovered at La Patrie, Quebec, Canada on April 11, 1970.

Myrtle Warbler, banded at Tiana on October 20, 1969 (112-61215), retrapped and released at Nantucket, Mass. on December 3, 1969!!!

Myrtle Warbler, banded at Tiana on October 14, 1966 (73-13480), recovered at Warren, Maine on January 18, 1970.

Cape May Warbler, banded at East Moriches on September 12, 1969 (112-61794), recovered at Ashfield, Pa., on August 29, 1970.

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Manorville (Gilbert S. Raynor)

I operated as usual mostly in the evenings and on weekends from August 1 to October 31 with the exception of Aug. 11 and 23, October 22 and 26-30. The basic statistics are given in the table.

Month	Days	Net/hrs	New Birds	Returns	Repeats	New B.P.N/H.	Species
Aug.	29	639	152	8	21	0.24	24
Sep.	30	1040	324	5	66	0.31	38
Oct.	25	923	522	9	134	0.57	34
Season	84	2602	998	22	221	0.38	53

General impression of fall migration. September warblers in good variety but low numbers. Northern Waterthrush commoner than usual. Myrtle Warblers very low. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes low but not as low as last year. Hermit Thrush near normal or slightly below after very heavy flight last year. Sparrows about average.

Best birds were 3 Louisiana Waterthrushes on August 1 and one Worm-eating Warbler on August 8.

Birds banded in largest numbers were: White-throated Sparrow:258, Catbird: 137; Towhee: 68; Northern Waterthrush: 63; Swamp Sparrow: 63; Slate-colored Junco: 44 and Song Sparrow: 39.

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Brookhaven (Dennis Puleston)

The Fall 1970 banding report is not a very impressive report; most species were noticeably low in numbers this past fall. The exceptions seem to be Northern Waterthrushes and Yellowthroats. Below is a short commentary on my observations:

All my banding during the fall migration is done in the very early morning. I have to close up the nets and head for a cleanup before going to work, except on weekends. Even then, however, I find that there is little activity after the first few hours or daylight. I believe that the birds concentrated at the marsh edge, where my nets are installed, are those that find themselves over the bay or marsh as dawn breaks. Thus, they head for the nearest suitable habitat, where they can feed and rest after their night's journey. Later, however, they scatter into many miles of suitable habitat further inland, since I am just at the edge of it.

The main points of interest last fall were the relative scarcity of small land birds, except for Northern Waterthrushes and Yellowthroats, which had good flights. Most surprising was the scarcity of Myrtle Warblers (seems they all congregated at Tobay. Ed.). In 1969 I banded 304, last year only 22. Also, Goldfinches were almost entirely absent. In all previous seasons, they appear in the latter part of October to feed on the seeds of high-tide bushes (Baccharis and Iva) which are very abundant on the salt marsh. In some years, large flocks of Siskins also adopt the same feeding habit around this time. But both species were absent last fall. I did not see a single siskin, and only banded 17 Goldfinches, as compared with several hundred in other autumns. Flycatchers (Traill's and Least) were in somewhat better numbers than other years, but Tree Swallows were entirely absent from the lower Carman's River, where they usually assemble in considerable numbers during migration.

One of my main interests in connection with this banding station is to determine population trends. By using the same net lanes, hours, and netting techniques over a period of a good many years, I hope to come up with some meaningful data on increases, decreases, extensions of range, and other information useful to the study of population dynamics.

Dennis banded 2084 individuals of 81 species, in 2661 net hours in 97 banding days.

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John F. Kennedy Sanctuary-Tobay Beach (Anthony J. Lauro)

A total of 8004 birds were banded during the banding year, consisting of the months March through December, with the exception of July, when no banding was done. Total species for this period came to 111, of which 12 were new species for the station.

Birds showing a marked increase during fall migration, as compared to a seven year data compilation period were: Empidonax Flycatchers, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, American Redstart, and Swamp Sparrow. Birds showing a marked decrease were: Red Breasted Nuthatch (none were banded on fall migration-first time in seven years), Wood Thrush, American Gold Finch.

Total Net Hours: 4,142 = 1.66 birds per net hour. The 12 new birds banded brings the Tobay Station's list of birds banded (since 1964) to 142 species plus one subspecies.

Banders were: Harvey Farber and Anthony Lauro

Assistants were: Allen Kelly, Edward Kelly, Steven Kerekes, Brook Lauro, Russell O'Malley, Harold Wellender, Herman Wenz, Martin Wenz and Katrina Wenz.

The LeConte's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus Caudacutus*) banded on October 18, 1970, was the second State of New York record, first Metropolitan Area record. The first record was in 1897 by the artist-naturalist, Louis Agassiz Fuertes at Ithaca, N.Y. Ref. Eaton's "Birds in New York State".

The Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica Auduboni*) banded on November 28, 1970, was the first record of the bird in New York State.

The basic research program at Tobay Banding Station is the study of the migration patterns and wintering habits of the Myrtle Warbler. For the first time, we have continued our banding operations throughout the winter months in an effort to determine which Myrtle Warblers arriving in the sanctuary stay and which pass on to the south. Preliminary data indicates that specific populations are wintering at Tobay and their arrival at the sanctuary takes place at predictable times. Perhaps one more year of winter banding should verify this finding. Expanded banding

operations during the spring of 1970 brought to light several species never before banded at the sanctuary. We find this quite interesting in that it indicates that several species of birds show a preference for spring migration routes which vary during the fall migration. Since this is only the second spring that we have banded at Tobay, further work is needed to verify these trends. The twelve new species are: American Bittern, Red Bellied Woodpecker(2), Acadian Flycatcher, Bank Swallow(2); Rough Winged Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Audubon's Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Eastern Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and LeConte's Sparrow.

The most banded species was Myrtle Warbler:

March	April	May	June	August	September	October	November	December	Total
24	68	289	0	0	24	1938	1153	147	3643

The next most banded species was Yellowthroat:

0	0	330	2	50	140	31	1	0	554
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Atlantic Beach (Richard Cohen)

Total bandings at Atlantic Beach for the three months ending October 31 were 2064 birds compared to 2216 in 1969 and 2208 in 1968, using a standard netting pattern in our garden and netting daily dawn to dusk (actually through the night). September's total of 873 birds that included 516 Warblers represented new highs in both cases for the station. For the three months 782 Warblers of 27 species were netted or trapped, most numerous, as usual, the Yellowthroat, 179 followed by 162 Redstarts and 91 Northern Waterthrushes. Among them were 2 Golden-winged 9/4 and 9/7, 2 Blackburnian, 7 Chats (3 on 9/4), 4 Mourning and 2 Connecticut. Thirty-Seven Cape Mays banded from 8/24 through November 4 more than doubled any previous year's total. Over 200 warblers were banded in the first week of September. The Philadelphia Vireo has been recorded here only four times, two 9/13/64 and twice in May '68. This September we banded 6, five between 9/15 and 9/17.

Unlike September, October was our poorest in 5 years. Only 881 birds were banded despite a massive flight on Oct. 17 in which we banded 214 birds, the highest daily total in seven years of banding. Echo flights on 10/18 and 10/19 produced daily totals of 129 and 91 resp. These 3 days accounted for 434 of the monthly total. Between 10/10 and 10/15 we never caught more than 9 birds a day! Winter finches were completely absent, the junco flight was poor., no Red-breasted Nuthatches were banded, no siskins were seen and no white-crowned sparrows banded. Only the white-throat appeared in normal numbers. Just one Saw-whet Owl was netted.

Two species were handled for the first time this season: Olive Sided Flycatcher(8/24) and Kingfisher (9/28). November's Robin and Hermit Thrush flights were not impressive. A Red-eyed Vireo and a Baltimore Oriole on Nov. 3rd were the only highlights of the month besides the Cape May. The fall season will best be remembered here for its warbler flight which, coming in on the heels of the most impressive spring netting seasons ever, gave us a year's total of 1300 warblers. This record will undoubtedly stand for many years to come.

FIRE ISLAND RESEARCH STATION - Dr. Paul A. Buckley, Director

July: 2 days, @ 34 birds of 17 species; August: 12 days, @ 575 of 53 spp (and one "hybrid"); September: 19 days, @ 3000 birds of 88 species; October: 17 days, @ 3300 birds of 91 species and November: 10 days, @ 1000 birds of 48 species. Totals in this five months period: 60 days coverage, @ 8000 birds of 118 species and "Brewster's" Warbler.

Significant species: Bell's Vireo, 26 Sept. (collected); Western Tanager, breeding plumage, male, 21 November (collected); Western Kingbird, 25 October; Louisiana Waterthrush, 8 August; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 5 October; Cerulean Warbler, 5 October; Ipswich Sparrow, 31 Oct., Sora, 18 September.

Sight records of interest: Clay-colored Sparrow, 12 September; Lark Bunting, 19 September; Manx Shearwater, 2 October.

Significant seasonal totals: Sharpshinned Hawk, 3; Pigeon Hawk, 6; Woodcock, 3; Saw-whet Owl 16; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 35; Traill's Flyc. 29; Least Flyc. 55; Black-capped Chickadee, 3 (low); Wood Thrush, 10; Red eyed Vireo, 181; Phila. Vireo, 28; Orange Crowned Warbler, 4; Myrtle W, 1522; Pine Warbler 7, Palm Warbler 201; Connecticut W. 4; Mourning W. 10; American Redstart 407; Baltimore Oriole 176; Cardinal 22; House Finch 24; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 6; Seaside Sp. 4, Junco, 392; Lincoln's Sp. 10; Hooded Warbler 2, Blue-winged W. 8, White-crowned Sp. 1 (low); Warbling Vireo 7.

Most numerous species: Myrtle Warbler 1522; Redstart 407; Junco 392; Flicker 469; Robin 652; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 198*; Golden-cr K. 164*; Red-eyed Vireo 181; Cape May W, 157; Yellowthroat 292; Baltimore Oriole 176 Northern Waterthr. 114; Whitethroat 128; Song Sp. 194; Catbird 188; Creeper 138*; Palm Warbler 201/(*many released unbanded; figures indicate number banded).

Significant dates: Tennessee Warbler, 8 Aug.; Cape May 18 Aug; Connecticut 19 Aug; Hairy Woodpecker, 29 Aug.; WB Nuthatch 30 Aug; Bay-Breasted Warbler 30 Aug.; Yellow-b. Cuckoo 11 Nov.; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 6 October (collected); Least Flycatcher 8 November (collected); Yellow Warbler, 24 October (collected); Indigo Bunting 25 July.

Significant daily maxima: Flicker, 104(20 Sep); Yellow-b. Flyc. 8 (1 Sep); Least Flyc. 13(1 Sep); Traill's Flyc. 11 (1 Sep); Robin 213 (7 Nov); Red-eyed Vireo, 59(20 Sep); Phila. Vireo 10(20 Sep); Myrtle Warbler 254(24 Oct); Junco 115(3 Nov); Song Sparrow 33 (24 October).

Comments: anywhere from 15 to 35 nets run daily; usually from 6 AM to at least 12Mn, often to dusk; 1 substation in pine grove, the other is deciduous scrub for comparison; Banders: D.B. Ford, H. Honig; F.A. Heath, T.H. Davis, F.G. Buckley, and P.A. Buckley, Director, Fire Island Research Station.