

American redstart (94); White-throated sparrow (66); Yellowthroat (64); Rufous-sided towhee (52); Catbird (44); Red-breasted nuthatch (44); and Brown creeper (44). There was not the abundance of Cape may warblers that was evident last year.

A total of 1,108 individuals of 75 species were banded in 1,635 net hours of banding. The most unusual catch was a magnificent green and red Macaw - an escaped pet.

We wish to acknowledge and thank Mr. James Rosmus, Park Superintendent and Mr. Richard Cole, Park Naturalist for their interest, help and cooperation during the almost three months that we operated the station.

ISLAND BEACH STATION by Katherine G. Price and
William F. Sandford

Banding during this autumn season began on 5 August and ended on 29 October with only 13 days not covered. On the 73 days that the station was covered, weather permitted banding on all but five days. 6818 birds of 110 species were banded in 3,250 net hours.

The first large flight of birds came on 10 September with 53 species being banded and the next on 23 September with a 54 species count. October 2nd brought the next large wave followed by the 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 20th, and 21st with the heaviest autumn flight on 26 October. The species count on those October days was 25, 47, 35, 35, 38, 25, 20, and 43, respectively.

Some of the species numbers were interesting. To the field birders unable to find the skulking elusive Yellow-bellied flycatcher, the net catch of twelve of them is amazing. Ten were netted on one day: Sept. 10th. The count of 172 Red-breasted nuthatches, on the other hand, reflects birders' observations of a heavy influx of that species last fall.

Birders are always surprised by the fall banding project's Philadelphia vireo figures. This year the nets produced a total of eighteen. Field findings of a very light Blackpoll warbler flight were also mirrored by the net counts -- only 114 -- as against 158 of the relatively uncommon Cape may warbler, and a total of 215 Palm warblers.

Myrtles topped the warbler list with 616, second only to the Golden-crowned kinglets, 1,047 for the entire list. There were 540 Ruby-crowned kinglets, 459 White-throated sparrows and 450 redstarts. There were 289 Catbirds and a tie for seventh place between the Slate-colored junco and Yellowthroat at 284 each.

Most common bird in the lives of all of us, the inescapable Starling, is surprisingly difficult to find on the table. Just one bird of that ubiquitous species was netted. It isn't that the bird is at all scarce at Island Beach, but it seldom moves through the underbrush - in which the nets are placed - as do most other land birds.

Banders in charge of net lanes were Emil Berger, Dorothy and Roger Foy, Dr. Will Merritt, Jr., John Miller, Dr. Bertram Murray, Jr., Robert Pantle, Margaret and William Pepper, Katherine Price and Lloyd Price, Hannah Suthers, Herbert Volker, Scott Wood, and Dr. Robert Yunick.

Public relations work was accomplished primarily through banding demonstrations in cooperation with the park naturalists. Educational activities included instructions for non-banders and new banders in identification, aging, sexing, skills and techniques of netting and banding and an exchange of information among experienced banders.

SHIP BOTTOM N.J. Dorothy and Roger Foy

This station is operated year round, but this report will cover the period 1 August 1972 through 31 October 1972. This station is located at 393-0741 and a description of the area can be found in EBBA NEWS, 34 (4).

During the above period we banded 32 days and all banding was accomplished with no more than four nets. During these 32 days we banded 1,459 birds of 61 species, in 801 net hours. All birds were aged, sexed, weighed and fat classed. We had 38 repeats, 10 returns and 1 recovery.

HY vs. AHY: of the total banded 62% were HY, 34% were of unknown age and 4% were AHY. There is not too much difference between these figures and those of last year.

Prevailing species: 185 Red-winged blackbirds; 161 Myrtle warblers; 101 Golden-crowned kinglets; 150 White-throated sparrows.

Most interesting species: Traills flycatcher (1); Prairie warbler (1); Rusty blackbird (1); Carolina chickadee (1); Red-headed woodpecker (1); Tennessee warbler (1).

Returns: Red-winged blackbird (7); Mockingbird (1); House finch (1); Song sparrow (1); (Total 10).

Recovery: Red-winged blackbird 662-12583, banded by Fred Lesser, at Barnegat New Jersey on 8-7-72, recovered by us on 8-22-72.

Best day was October 18th (Wednesday) with 245 birds of 21 species in 32 net hours. Since Sunday the 15th a passage of cold front was predicted and finally passed through the night of the 17th (Tuesday) with snow flurries in Western Pennsylvania. At 0700, on the morning of the 18th the temperature was 44 degrees, skies were very clear, wind was from N-NW at 8 - 10 M.P.H. Dominant species this day were White-throated sparrows (70); Golden-crowned kinglets (41); Myrtle warblers (32); Ruby-crowned kinglets (31). At 1600 all nets were closed and the birds were still coming through as heavy, if not heavier than at 1200. There was only one bander with no help.

--R.F.D.1, Cranbury Road, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

The August 1973 issue was typed by our new typist, Miss Sharon L. Snyder, 5521 Hill Way, Camp Springs, Maryland 20023. Mrs. Jeff Swinebroad was instrumental in proofreading the camera copies. All titling, layout and insertion of graphs and tables has been done by the Editor. Our sincere thanks to Miss Snyder and Mrs. Swinebroad!

A Supplement to Volume 36 will be mailed to all members in good standing, following shortly after the mailing of the August issue. It will contain the descriptions and Minutes of the 50th Anniversary meeting; the By-Laws and the Membership List. (Editor)

A BIRD BANDER'S DIARY

RALPH K. BELL

One of the nice things about spring is watching it unfold. It is a thrilling time for those that enjoy the outdoors and being a birder has its advantages - the season starts earlier. In fact, it even starts in mid-winter when the Great Horned Owls can often be heard giving their love songs on warm evenings. For many years we had to drive about 2 miles to hear them but now a pair is nesting close enough that one can often be heard calling any hour of the night, even through closed windows.

Some enterprising person has found out that the Great horned owl will accept man-made stick nests and this year a friend of mine who is interested in owls, made 2 boxes approx. 24" square and 6" high. We filled them with sticks, added grapevine bark and shapped it in the form of a nest. We already have one up in a tree so that it will be well weathered by nesting time next winter.

Others are interested in providing Great Horned Owls with artificial nest sites also. EBBA member Ben Burt (Jamesville, N.Y.) wrote me last fall about this. Ben said that a man about 20 miles from him had made 8 Horned Owl nests by weaving sticks into chicken wire to form a basket and then fastened them in likely trees. More sticks were then added and this is topped off by a few sprigs of spruce or other evergreen to look like an old Red-tailed Hawk nest. So far 2 of the 8 artificial nests were successfully used by Horned Owls. Also, EBBA member Gerald Church of Eaton, New York puts up these chicken wire nests (EBBA NEWS Vol. 35, #3, page 233).

Our Red-tailed hawks were often seen circling over the farm on nice days during February and early March. I didn't find their nest last year but knew the nest wasn't far away because 2 young Red-tails would sit on posts (or electric poles) and call for food almost every day for 2 weeks during August last summer. This spring I located their nest high up in a big oak on April 8 and they were already feeding their young. On April 22, I climbed the tree (with the help of 3 ladders) and banded the 2 young. Young Red-tails are really cute and usually whimper softly while