

## ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW

## REGION III

EDITED BY ROBERT DEWIRE

Region III covers the banding stations on Long Island, New York and one station in Westport, Conn. Only four reports were submitted this year from the region, making it difficult to come to any sound conclusions about this year's flights.

The first noticeable flight of the fall came at the end of the first week in September and was followed by a slow period until the very end of the month. October peaked at the end of the second week with the 11th being the best day at Manorville and Westport and the 14th best at Fire Island.

Myrtle Warblers were down at both Brookhaven and Manorville but were at their usual high numbers at Fire Island and considered to be in good numbers at Westport. There was no flight of chickadees in the region and the thrush flight was generally considered poor although Hermit thrushes were numerous in Westport. There were movements of Evening grosbeaks and both Crossbills toward the end of October, but most passed high overhead moving further south.

Station summaries are as follows:

	M*	B*	F*	W*	T*
DAYS OF OPERATION	53	75	43	47	23
NO. OF NETS USED	3-10	14	40°	3-10	15-17
NO. OF BIRDS BANDED	494	1786	5044	1370	2350
NO. BIRDS BANDED 1971	868	2564	10659	841	5774
NO. DIFFERENT SPECIES	41	80	111	77	85
BIRDS/100 NET HOURS	36	67	77	75	24
BIRDS/100 NET HOURS-1971	42	79	110	66	140

\*LEGEND: M = Manorville, New York    W = Westport, Conn.  
           B = Brookhaven, New York    T = Tobay Banding  
           F = Fire Island, New York    Station, N.Y.  
 ° Maximum 40 nets.

Manorville (Gilbert S. Raynor)

Nets are set at this station in deciduous and swampy woodland and along the edge between a garden and woods. Monthly statistics are as follows:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 net hours	Species
Aug.	10	31	2	5	14	10
Sept.	21	93	3	12	18	22
Oct.	22	370	17	53	54	29

The year was a poor one at Manorville, especially during September. In 1971, 373 birds were banded in September while only 93 were netted this year. There were no noticeable flights in either August or September and in October, only on the 11th (41 birds taken that day).

The most numerous bird this year was the slate-colored junco with 71 being banded, up from 1971. The next two most numerous birds however dropped sharply from last year. White-throated sparrows continued to decline this year going from 258 in 1970 to 103 in 1971 to 62 this year. Catbirds went from 160 birds in 1971 to only 36 this year. Birds usually taken here but not captured this year included Hermit thrush, White-breasted nuthatch, Goldfinch, and Baltimore oriole.

The most interesting bird caught was a Kentucky warbler banded on October 1. A Black and white warbler banded on May 5, 1971 was recaptured on August 20, 1972.

Brookhaven (Dennis Puleston)

Mr. Puleston writes the following:

Below is a breakdown of the 1972 banding season.

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 net hours	Species
Sept.	26	504	17	72	54	60
Oct.	27	1037	24	110	96	61
Nov.	16	207	8	28	39	30
Dec.	6	38	0	3	25	7

In 1972 I was absent from my banding station for most of August, and therefore was unable to set up my nets until Sept. 2nd. Thus I missed much of the early warbler migration. From early September on, however, I was able to band almost every morning that weather permitted until mid-December.

My net lanes are located in the scrubwoodland at the edge of an extensive salt marsh on the Great South Bay, Long Island. I band only in the very early morning, from dawn until about 9:00. After that hour there is very little activity under normal conditions, as following their early feeding, most birds scatter into many miles of suitable habitat inland.

I operated for a total of 75 days, during which I banded 1786 individuals of 80 species for 2680 net hours. I did not encounter the normal heavy flight of Myrtle warblers. In 1971 I banded 558, but in 1972 only 105. I did have the usual heavy flight of Swamp sparrows, netting precisely the same total (399) as in 1971. It is surprising how consistent this species is with me; In 1970 I had 390, in 1969 476, and in 1968 397. Unquestionably, I am located on a major flyway for this species. The peak migration period for the Swamp sparrow in Brookhaven is in the latter half of October, but there is still a considerable movement in mid-November.

My most unusual bird this fall was a clay-colored sparrow, rare on Long Island, netted on October 31. For the first time, I trapped two Tufted titmice. This bird is increasing steadily as a Long Island resident.

As usual, I had student helpers from the local high school who came down whenever their classes permitted. Working at a banding station is a fine experience for youngsters interested in wildlife, and they should be given every encouragement.

#### Fire Island Research Station (Dr. Paul A. Buckley)

The fall of 1972 was our fourth in operation. This report covers the period from August 4 to December 1972; we were not in operation any days in July. Activity was as follows:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Net Hours	New Birds/100 Net Hours	Species
Aug.	8	633	1514	42	52
Sept.	14	1645	2392	69	82
Oct.	9	1947	1377	141	78
Nov.	9	766	1137	67	40
Dec.	3	54	160	33	15
	43	5044	6580	77	111

Five species were netted at FIRS for the first time: King rail, Cooper's hawk, Goshawk, Peregrine falcon, and Common night-hawk. This brings the station total to 161.

The lower number of days in operation each month was intentional, as we concentrated our efforts on running our two major substations simultaneously as often as we could: one is in a pine grove, the other in a deciduous scrub thicket. Each substation has a maximum capacity of ca. 20 nets. Other, adventurous nets are occasionally set up or run as conditions and personnel allow.

The 21 most numerous species of fall 1972 are listed below. Deviations from past years can be due to many factors, such as the "weekend effect", major irruptions (or the absence) of boreal species such as Crossbills, Siskins, and Red-breasted nuthatches, seasonal weather vagaries, and other factors probably not indicative of population levels and trends. For example 1972 was a particularly bad fall at FIRS for thrushes and empidonax Flycatchers, and we caught relatively few Barn swallows, and Pine siskins, but saw very many; likewise Flickers. Myrtle warbler figures as well as those for Brown creepers and both Kinglets are down because we preferentially released those species unbanded on extremely heavy days. Golden-crowned kinglets would otherwise be second in numerical rank. These 21 species account for 80.0% of the total banded (excluding Kinglets and Creepers): the same percentage for the 20 most numerous species, although with a different species composition, obtained in 1971.

Myrtle warbler	2036 - 40.4%	Red-eyed vireo	97 - 1.9%
Junco	291 - 5.8%	White-thr. sparrow	90 - 1.8%
Redstart	210 - 4.2%	Baltimore oriole	88 - 1.7%
Red-br. nuth.	146 - 2.9%	Robin	86 - 1.7%