

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, adventitious 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%

Catbird	138 - 2.7%	Flicker	81 - 1.6%
Cape may warb.	133 - 2.6%	Swamp sparrow	68 - 1.3%
Yellowthroat	119 - 2.4%	Northern waterth.	49 - 1.0%
Palm warbler	119 - 2.4%	Goldfinch	44 - .9%
Song sparrow	106 - 2.1%	Downy woodp.	40 - .8%
Blackpoll warb.	99 - 2.0%	Towhee	31 - .6%
		Tennessee warbler	30 - .6%

The heaviest day in each month (combined total for all substations each day) were:

August	20th: 183 birds of 38 species
September	5th: 385 birds of 50 species; 23rd: 409 birds of 59 sp.
October	14th: 764 birds of 44 species
November	11th: 236 birds of 23 species
December	2nd: 37 birds of 8 species

Rarities, extremely early, or extremely late dates (sight records marked \*) follow, by months:

#### AUGUST

Acadian flycatcher	- one each on 12th and 19th
Red-br. nuthatch	- first of this flight year, on 20th
Mourning warbler	- one each on the 11th and 20th
Myrtle warbler	- very early one; each on 19th, 20th, and 26th
Louisiana waterth.	- one each on the 11th, 12th and 26th
Sharp-tail sparrow	- on 20th
Tennessee warbler	- on 12th

#### SEPTEMBER

Connecticut warb.	- one each on 5th, 8th, 16th and 23rd
Acadian flycatcher	- on 5th (plus 3 other Empidonax spp. at same time)
Warbling vireo	- on 5th
KING RAIL	- on 5th
Philadelphia vireo	- 6 on 5 days; 2 on 23rd
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	- on 9th
Mourning warbler	- one each on 9th and 23rd
Lincoln's sparrow	- one each on 10th and 23rd
Dickcissel	- one on 16th
Pine warbler	- on 24th (two)

Traill's flycatcher	- late, on 30th
Ruby-crowned kinglet	- early, on 5th
*Upland plover	- on 5th

#### OCTOBER

Crested flycatcher	- late, on 1st
Philadelphia vireo	- on 1st
Ruby-thr. hummingbird	- on 1st
*Western kingbird	- on 1st
Mourning warbler	- on 4th -- most carefully keyed out
PEREGRINE FALCON	- on 10th
Lincoln's sparrow	- one on each of four days
Sharp-tailed sparrow	- on 10th
Orange-crowned warbler	- on 11th
Blackburnian warbler	- on 11th
Saw-whet owl	- 3 on 14th; 10 on 26th
Least flycatcher	- one on 14th, carefully keyed out
Hairy woodpecker	- one on 14th, <u>g</u> on 26th
Sharp-shinned hawk	- 4 on 1st, one on 15th
Fox sparrow	- one early, on 22nd
Red-bellied woodpecker	- on 26th
Yellow warbler	- one each on 10th and 11th: late

#### NOVEMBER

Pine grosbeak	- one on 1st, 2 each on 4th and 16th
Saw-whet owl	- total of <u>32</u> for month; maximum 13 on 11th
Peregrine falcon	- (same one as in October), one on 4th eating a Saw-whet owl which in turn was eating a White-footed Deer Mouse!
Pine warbler	- one on 4th
Hairy woodpecker	- 4 on 4th
Baltimore oriole	- one on 11th
Parula warbler	- one on 11th
*Red crossbill	- 15 on 16th
Nashville warbler	- one each on 11th and 16th
Red-eyed vireo	- one each on 12th and 19th
Solitary vireo	- one each on 12th and 18th
Redstart	- one on 12th
*White-winged crossbill	- 8 on 16th
*Dickcissel	- one on 16th; late
GOSHAWK	- adult female seen on 16th, netted on 17th
Black-thr. green warb.	- one on 17th
COOPER'S HAWK	- one on 18th
Orange-crowned warbler	- one on 19th

DECEMBER

Saw-whet owls - 2 on 2nd  
Merlin - one on 4th

A total of 15 Dickcissels, plus one banded were seen this fall; this is lower than in some years such as 1969, when 55 were recorded. However this might be due to spottier daily coverage this year. Large numbers of Pine siskins were recorded going by in November, but almost none were netted.

Personnel who actually ran the nets and gathered most of the data enumerated here include: Darrel B. Ford, Howard Honig, Frederick A. Heath, Robert O. Paxton, Fred Schaeffer, Efrem Rosen, Dan Klem, Sheila Becker, Thomas H. Davis, John Biderman, Mary McKeough, and F. G. Buckley.

TOBAY BANDING STATION (Anthony J. Lauro)

Tobay Banding Station is located four miles south of Massapequa, on the outer island adjacent to the Jones Beach State Park complex, near the Nassau/Suffolk County line in New York. It consists of typical barrier beach habitat, low deciduous cover (Poison Ivy, Catbrier and Bayberry shrubs) interspersed with grasses and phragmites.

The station was in operation on August 6th, 26-27th, September 2nd, 4th, 9th through 12th, 14th through 17th, 23rd and 24th, and on October 1st, 8-9th, 14-15th, 21-22nd and 28th. Fifteen to seventeen nets were used. All nets were of the 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh type.

Not much banding was done because the weather was very wet throughout the month of August. September was also very wet and the best day that month was September 23rd with 126 individuals banded. October 14th was the best day with 320 birds banded; other banding days that month did not turn out very well because winds were not conducive to good flights.

The Myrtle warbler was the most commonly banded bird (1437), followed by the Yellowthroat (95), Catbird (91), Red-eyed vireo (83), White-throated sparrow (59), Barn swallow (67) and Eastern phoebe (51). No rarities were noted at this station during the period covered.

One return is interesting: a Myrtle warbler, banded on 15 October, 1971, was retrapped on 16 October 1972.

A Slate colored junco was recovered on 12-25-72. It was banded by A.J. Lauro, at Tobay on 10-01-72 (#81-055773).

Overall it was just a poor year because of the weather conditions and there was nothing particularly noteworthy.

Two banders assisted during the 1971 season: Harvey Farber and Robert Giffen. Tabulations of the netting effort are available at no charge.

WADSWORTH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, Westport, Conn. (Robert Dewire)

Nets were set up in a shrubby thicket area adjoining a red maple swamp and in a field edge near a bird feeding station. A monthly breakdown is indicated below:

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 Net Hours	Species
Aug.	16	303	2	19	42	40
Sept.	16	400	1	6	73	51
Oct.	15	667	0	7	121	46

This years totals were much higher than 1971 because of the increase in the number of nets used, from 3 in 1971 to up to 10 and an average of 8 this year. Even so, based on the net hour figures the birds were up over 1971 (66/100 net hours in 1971, 75/100 this year). The same habitats were used with an increase in the number of nets in the shrubby thicket area. There is no doubt that the warbler flights were far better here this year. Last year, seven species had higher totals than the Myrtle warbler, but this year they were by far the most numerous (166). Other species most commonly caught were the Catbird (110), Ruby-crowned kinglet (102), Yellowthroat (97), and White-throated sparrow (96).

While it would be hard to say any species positively increased over last year since the higher number of nets were used this year, it is easy to note the decreases where fewer individuals were caught this year despite the net increase. Most noticeable were the Blue Jay (56 in 1971 to 23), Black-capped chickadee (51 in 1971 to 21) Towhee (43 in 1971 to 22), Robin (28 in 1971 to 15), and