

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Myrtle Warbler:	16	18	156	15
Blackpoll Warbler:	6	6	109	6
Black-throated Green:	6	3	37	8
All warblers:	199	123	550	176
Warblers per 100 Net Hours:	16	8	22	16

The brown thrushes continued to decline - only 21 were caught this fall as compared to 78 in 1971. Gray Catbirds have also decreased at this station: 84 in 1971, 67 in 1972, and only 28 in 1973. Towhees have decreased from a high of 45 in 1970 to 6 in 1973, and Swamp Sparrows have almost disappeared from this station due to the draining of the wetlands adjacent to the banding areas.

A number of species have been remarkably consistent in numbers over the four fall seasons. The Least Flycatcher, Song Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Dark-eyed Junco have remained at very nearly the same numbers in spite of the variation in net hours. Two new species, Eastern Kingbird and Sharp-shinned Hawk, were added to our station list.

Rainfall throughout August, September and October was below normal, and temperatures were above average. Weather systems moved in the usual west to east pattern, and there was only one hurricane from the southeast (affecting our weather very little). The best banding day in August was on the 28th, in the midst of a heat wave and evidently not associated with frontal activity. The high heat and humidity continued through the first week of September. The 8th, 16th, and 28th of September were fairly good banding days; a series of weak fronts moved through, bringing cooler weather and a little rain, but no spectacular waves of birds. The peak day in the very dry month of October was on the 4th, possibly associated with the falling barometric pressure as a cold front approached. Banding was poor after the 13th; early morning frost on the nets after the 20th made it worse.

There has been little variation in the most abundant species at this station. Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, and Gray Catbirds have been in the top five or six every year except 1972 when they were topped by Myrtle and Blackpoll Warblers.

All banding was done by Frank Fish and myself, with assistance from Mildred Fish.

-- Valerie M. Freer

Binghamton, N.Y.

This is the fourth year this station has participated in this fall banding program.

Net arrangements were the same as in former years - 8 long nets (four  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh and four  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh) strung along the contour of a northwest-facing hillside that was once pastureland but has now grown up to thornapple. A farm pond lies about 100 feet downhill of the net lane. At the bottom of the hill - about a quarter of a mile from the net lanes - a housing development has been in construction all four years covered by these reports.

This year's banding operations started August 21st and were carried on 8 days in August, 15 days in September and 15 days in October, ending October 31st.

Nets were functioning in general from 6 a.m. through 10 a.m. when too few birds got caught to make banding worth while. Occasionally rain shortened the hours and on one notable instance birds kept coming in in such numbers that the nets stayed unfurled till 3:30 p.m.

In August my best banding date was the first day I had the nets up - August 21st when 26 birds of 11 species were caught.

During the latter part of August and early September our weather was characterized by persistent heat. Temperatures were over 90° in the daytime and not below 70° at night. An accompanying Bermuda High accentuated the condition. I am sure it must have influenced bird migration.

After the heat wave, September settled down to what is normal for this banding station - warm days and cool nights. This condition produces early morning valley fog which often lasts till 8:30 a.m. I am sure this has an effect upon the banding but since it is a constant factor occurring each year I am not usually concerned about it. This year, however, the condition extended well into October so it is worthy of mention.

My best banding dates in September were the 17th when 43 birds of 19 species were banded and the following day when 33 birds of 18 species were banded. On September 27th 32 birds of 16 species were banded and on September 30th 37 birds of 17 species were banded.

My peak day of the fall, however was on October 10th when 93 birds of 20 species were banded. On this day I could not get my nets furred until 3:30 p.m. Thirty-eight white-throats, 14 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 8 hermit thrushes and 5 purple finches among others were banded.

In all 704 birds were banded. The five most numerous were: White-throated Sparrow 99, Gray Catbird 69, Purple Finch 58, Common Yellowthroat 39 and Red-eyed Vireo 39. All have appeared on the list of most commonly banded birds at this station in previous years.

As in former falls most of my birds 60% - were HY. Of the others 29% were U and 11% were AHY.

There were no unusual birds but a few trends were noted. Hermit Thrushes went up from 0 in '70, 16 in '71, 12 in '72 to 30 in '73. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were especially numerous. They went from 1 in '70, 19 in '71, 22 in '72 to 27 in '73.

Red-eyed Vireos were better than last year but still down from years previous to that. I banded 72 in '69, 112 in '70, 76 in '71, 24 in '72 and 39 in '73.

The most conspicuous change I noted, however, was the decided decline in Parulidae.

Nashville Warblers went from 25 last year to 5 this year; Magnolias from 25 last year to 14 this year. Only 2 Cape May Warblers showed up. Previous records show 35 in '70, 36 in '71, 7 in '72. Aside from the Yellowthroats the only wood warbler to reach 15 was the Black-throated Green Warbler. The total number of Parulidae for '73 was 156. In '72 the total was 226, in '71 - 198, in '70 - 160.

All banding was done by me, Harriet Marsi, #7964, or my sub-permittee, Rick Marsi.

--Harriet Marsi

## Bird Bander's Diary



From my vantage point in eastern coastal Maine one tends to be a little more concerned with migration patterns than with plumages. Birds pass along the coast in distinct waves often concentrating on heavily wooded headlands, sometimes in vast numbers. Fog, rain, and wind often interrupt the banding activities of those of us with small stations. Even with the large numbers of birds found in small areas it is often impossible to band the headlands themselves. Private property, lack of roads, and thick trees prevent more than occasional samplings at these locations. More avid (and physically fit) birders and occasional banders to venture out offshore islands where one has a better than average chance at a western rarity or perhaps large numbers of one certain specie.

For me interest in migrants extends even beyond the offshore island. Once a month and especially in September a trip is made across the Bay of Fundy on the Canadian National Railways auto ferry Bluenose. The trip takes six hours each way and one can leave Bar Harbor at 8 a.m. and return by 9:30 p.m. Taking the trip means sacrificing a day of banding since the day of the trip must be clear and calm (I am quite prone to seasickness) an ideal banding day along the coast. I can look across from my banding station on Wakeag Neck at the head of Frenchmans Bay at sunrise and if no surf is running then the decision is made to cross to Nova Scotia. I was a birder first and a bander second for many years. This, plus the presence of one or two out-of-state birders who usually want to see pelagic birds prevails so I usually decide that there is probably nothing but Swainson's Thrushes and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the back yard anyway and the day of banding is sacrificed. A forty minute ride around the head of the bay where we board the vessel, eat breakfast, then take stations in the bow for the six hour trip across. Notes taken on the trip as follows.

First hour: We have cleared Frenchmans Bay and are now heading eastward into a 2 foot ground swell. Sixty-five degrees, wind NW at 10 mph, clear. A flock of Red Crossbills flew over