

	1963	1964	1965	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Black & White	8	12	20	25	22	6	8	16	29	18
Tennessee	6	7	27	17	17	29	9	17	55	17
Nashville	10	31	31	38	51	32	10	16	43	21
Parula	27	33	42	42	69	34	35	45	48	60
Magnolia	18	37	39	47	41	30	29	35	32	31
Cape May	1	3	8	10	19	27	4	30	9	8
Black-thr. Blue	3	5	6	3	6	0	4	0	3	2
Myrtle	21	44	68	30	62	9	1	15	16	14
Black-thr. Green	6	25	91	66	56	14	23	30	39	44
Blackburnian	0	0	8	2	13	1	6	15	21	11
Chestnut sided	1	3	1	17	17	3	6	8	7	8
Bay-breasted	2	8	9	7	33	21	4	26	45	50
Blackpoll	13	27	117	68	158	10	9	46	23	49
Ovenbird	7	18	13	10	23	6	6	14	15	3
N. Water-thrush	19	30	10	13	25	13	15	15	22	15
Yellow-throat	11	11	6	21	17	17	15	1	20	2
Wilson's	6	4	1	7	5	9	13	11	9	5
Canada	3	14	5	14	13	5	5	5	22	19
Am. Redstart	15	21	8	65	48	55	81	26	60	33
Total No. Warblers:	177	333	510	502	695	321	283	371	518	410
Total all species:	815	1128	1128	804	1064	532	485	533	894	589
No. net-hours:	1648+	1886+	1503	1440	1532	890	440	496	543	404

Manomet Bird Observatory, Mass. - Executive Director Kathleen S. Anderson

The Observatory operates year round, but this report is confined to the main period of all migration from 1 August to 15 November 1973. During this time we recorded data on 8,539 birds comprised of 5,458 new bandings plus 3,081 repeats. Approximately 50 nets were used on 90 days and the sites were similar to previous years to ensure comparability.

TABLE I New bandings of all species, 1 Aug. to 15 Nov.

SEASON	NO. BANDED	NET HOURS	B.P.N.H. x 100
7 Aug. - 31 Oct. 1969	4,828	31,178	15.5
1 Aug. - 31 Oct. 1970	7,127	40,575	17.6
1 Aug. - 23 Nov. 1971	10,424	44,906	23.2
1 Aug. - 15 Nov. 1972	6,684	38,153	17.5
1 Aug. - 15 Nov. 1973	5,458	41,301	13.2

If 1971 was a "big" fall and 1972 "average", then the fall migration of 1973 showed a considerable drop in numbers of nearly all species. There were also fewer days of heavy migration, the peaks (including repeats), being: 27 September (236 birds handled), 28 September (416), 30 September (424), 1 October (238), 7 October (254).

Table II shows the most frequently banded species in order and gives comparisons of totals and B.P.N.H. x 1000 from 1969. The two years 1969 and 1970 may have artificially low totals due to the shorter catching season.

TABLE II Numbers banded 1 Aug. - 15 Nov. 1969-72 (B.P.N.H. x 1000 in brackets)

SPECIES	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
1. Black-capped Chickadee	979 (23.7)	166 (4.4)	4549 (130.7)	326 (7.4)	995 (31.3)
2. Catbird	633 (15.3)	809 (21.2)	608 (13.6)	980 (22.2)	584 (18.3)
3. Myrtle Warbler	632 (15.3)	1304 (34.2)	847 (18.9)	1438 (32.5)	
4. White-throated Sparrow	455 (11.0)	532 (13.9)	159 (3.5)	522 (11.8)	93 (2.9)
5. Blackpoll Warbler	258 (6.2)	463 (12.1)	1131 (25.2)	186 (4.2)	132 (4.1)
6. Golden-crowned Kinglet	196 (4.7)	235 (6.2)	86 (1.9)	221 (5.4)	264 (8.5)
7. Robin	163 (3.9)	424 (11.1)	245 (5.5)	849 (19.2)	195 (6.1)
8. Red-eyed Vireo	155 (3.8)	203 (5.3)	149 (3.3)	202 (5.0)	185 (5.9)
9. Song Sparrow	151 (3.7)	258 (6.8)	191 (4.2)	281 (6.9)	71 (2.3)
10. Slate-colored Junco	145 (3.5)	272 (7.1)	89 (2.0)	95 (2.1)	88 (2.8)

Compared with 1972 the numbers and B.P.N.H. of all migrants were appreciably lower bearing out our impressions of a reduced fall migration in 1973. Although the days of peak migration at the end of September and first week of October were as heavy as the peaks last year, there were few other days with more than 200 birds caught. The only species showing an increase in numbers banded was Black-capped Chickadee but this was more a return to normal after the scarcity of 1972 and the super-abundance of 1971!

Robins showed the most dramatic drop with the lowest fall total banded in M.B.O. history; it is to be hoped that this is not part of a general trend as the number of pairs breeding on the property has also dropped steadily according to our breeding bird census results:

TABLE III Robin territories on 20 acres, (8 hectares).

Year	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
No. of Pairs	2	5	12	11	8

Families of birds showing a decrease in numbers observed or banded by comparison with fall 1972 include: Owls, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Corvids, Nuthatches, Mimids, Thrushes, Sylvids, Vireos, Wood Warblers, Interids and Fringillids. Numbers of Creepers and Wrens were similar to last fall and only the family Paridae showed an increase.

Yellow-breasted Chats were unusually abundant this fall, the 76 banded at M.B.O. being easily the highest total since 1966. Unusual birds banded included 2 Red-throated Loons on 30 October after a storm brought them down locally on wet roads, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker on 10 September, (the first banded at M.B.O.), 1 Warbling Vireo on 7 October, 1 Worm-eating Warbler on 4 September. At both M.B.O. and a nearby banding site for our A.E.C. contract work we banded 2 Golden-winged Warblers, 8 Blue-winged Warblers and 3 hybrid Brewster's Warblers showing various colour combinations. Other highlights at M.B.O. included 1 Cerulean Warbler on 2 September and 6 Connecticut Warblers from 12 September to 6 October.

The shorebird study on Plymouth Beach and Plymouth and Duxbury Bays involved intensive feeding and behaviour studies. Mist nets and a rocket net were used to catch fall migrants from 18 July to 8 November and totals included 658 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2 Piping Plover, 101 Black-bellied Plover, 10 Ruddy Turnstone, 45 Knot, 1 Least Sandpiper, 207 Dunlin, 7 Short-billed Dowitcher, 12 Semipalmated Plover, 8 Western Sandpiper and 98 Sanderling.

Another important part of the fall program was the Operation Seawatch with dawn to dusk watching for much of the period 10 September to 7 November, (257 hours). Highlights were 103,960 Scoters of 3 species, 1,648 Loons of 2 species, several thousand other ducks and geese including 235 Brant at Manomet Point on 18 October, and finally 874 Gannets during the autumn.

Other fall studies included a continuation and expansion of the A.E.C. program with more sensitive instruments for detection of low-level radiation products, a behaviour study of Dunlin using color-banded birds caught with the rocket net, the start of an intensive vegetation survey at the Observatory, a further study of local populations of the House Finch, and additional work on automatic data processing of banding records. Further details of these and other M.B.O. projects can be found in the observatory publications.

--Trevor L. Lloyd-Evans, Staff Biologist

Nantucket Island, Mass. - Edith Andrews

This year the Nantucket station was in operation on 32 days from August 18 through October 27, and banded 911 birds of 60 species with a Birds/100 net hour ratio of 214. Mrs. Andrews writes: "By and large the fall banding on Nantucket was a fiasco. The lack of birds was so acute as to be almost frightening; it was like a stage set - everything ready and waiting for the players to appear and then they didn't come. In spite of this most of the species that we have come to expect did appear, such as Winter Wren (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (2), and Blackburnian Warbler (1). Others, such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Philadelphia Vireo and Chestnut-sided Warbler were observed in the area but not banded. Some days the birds were there but it was just too windy for the nets to work effectively. But even when there were birds they were not concentrated in large numbers as has been the case in the past." The only good flights were after a NNE wind on the night of the 30th of September and after NW or WNW winds on October 6-8, 15-18, 21, 27. Most numerous birds were Yellow-rumped Warbler (314), Golden-crowned Kinglet (99) and Brown Creeper (63). Another 21 Golden-crowned Kinglets were released unbanded on a single day. Notable were the scarcity of Red-breasted Nuthatches (6 vs. 52 last year), Cape May Warblers (19:66) and Redstarts (52:76), but increased were Hermit Thrushes (23:11) and Swainson's Thrushes (18:5).

East Chop, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. - Grace C. Meleney and Mabel Gillespie

It is a personal pleasure to find both of these fine ladies in operation again, the more so since the former is recovering from a broken arm and the latter from a stroke. Despite these handicaps, a respectable 248 birds were banded from August through October. Especially noteworthy were 17 Field Sparrows banded by Miss Meleney and a Yellow Rail by Mrs. Gillespie, the latter having been caught after it landed on a boat on George's Bank east of Nantucket in August. Very few migrants were banded this year, contributing to an area wide view that offshore locations received fewer wind-driven transients than usual.

Kingston, Rhode Island - Douglas L. Kraus

The Kingston station was in operation on 50 days from August 1 - October 28, and 653 birds of 59 species were banded. Dr. Kraus writes: "As you can see, I don't have much exciting to report. With my nets (4) in the same positions as last year I caught the same number of birds but with a 7% increase in net hours. Due to intermittent use of the nets in September, few trends were evident. In early August the ratio of immatures to adults banded was approximately 7:1, indicating a successful nesting season this year in contrast to last year." Most numerous species banded were Catbird (93), Yellow-throat (5) Yellow-rumped Warbler (53), D.E. Junco (52) and Blue-winged Warbler (36). (Note: The numbers of the latter caught at this station often are very surprising to many who consider this species to be rather uncommon but the Blue-wing seems to be very common as a summer resident in the area of the station. A high of 49 was banded in 1967. Most of these birds are caught in a single net which is placed along the edge of a pure stand of Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) on one side and an open, sunny, overgrown stone wall on the other.) Increased over last year were Dark-eyed Junco (52:31) and Catbird (93:69) but decreased were White-throated Sparrow (24:77) and Red-eyed Vireo (3:13). Of note was a Sharp-shinned Hawk banded on October 13th.

Block Island, Rhode Island - Elise Lapham

The Block Island station was in operation August 14-17, September 20-30, and October 1-13, 15-19 using 2-8 nets. In all, 1591 birds of 74 species banded on 35 days compared to 1607 banded last year on 33 days. Birds/100 net hours was 105. In general the fall weather produced very few notable flights, but small influxes of birds were noted after northwesterly winds on September 29, October 6 and 16. Most numerous species were Catbird (174), Golden-crowned