

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), Yellowthroat (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