

Peak days (100 or more) occurred as follows: 09/09/73-113; 09/30/73-141; 10/07/73-209; 10/08/73-170; 10/20/73-119; 10/21/73-137; 10/22/73-144. This contrasts to 1972 results when there were only three days when more than 100 birds were banded and these days were all in October.

The most numerous species this fall was the Golden-crowned Kinglet (255) which first appeared on 09-30-73 and continued in some profusion through the last day of operation. This exceeds the 1972 count by 140 individuals. Other species that were numerically strong were: Myrtle Warbler/222; American Redstart/149; and White-throated Sparrow/119. There was a marked increase in the number of Thrushes except for the Wood Thrush. The 1973 season produced 60 Hermit Thrushes (24 in 1972); 38 Swainson's Thrushes (15 in 1972); 28 Gray-cheeked Thrushes (4 in 1972); and 28 Veery (12 in 1972). White-throated Sparrows also almost doubled in numbers from last year.

Weather conditions were generally unseasonably mild with little or no rain during the days that the station was active. This may account for the late on-rush of birds in late October.

A total of 1,623 individuals of 71 species were banded in 1,445 net hours of banding. Four species not previously banded at this station were included in this year's count: Black-billed Cuckoo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Tree Sparrow.

The fall operation produced a total of 52 returns. One foreign band, a Catbird (791-00834) was obtained on October 8, 1973. This turned out to be a bird banded at Manomet, Mass., on July 26, 1973 as a hatching year bird.

ISLAND BEACH, Seaside Park, N.J. - Herman W. "Bud" Cooper

The Island Beach Bird Banding Station operated for 44 days from August 18 to October 28, 3 days during August, 24 days during September and 17 days during October. The station banded 6941 birds of 110 different species using 3939 net hours.

The biggest days in September were the 8th and 9th, with tallies of 399 and 454 while October 22nd and 27th, 1134 and 797 birds were banded. October 13th was the poorest day with only 8 birds banded.

Most numerous of the species banded was Junco (1015), Golden-crowned Kinglets (665), American Redstart (632). No other species was over the 500 mark, but there were 479 Myrtle Warblers and 433 White-throated Sparrows.

Most effort has been given to our shore birds this year with 114 banded of 12 species.

The following banders participated in the autumn banding: Bruce Adams, Bud Cooper, Hazel Gorman, Jesse Grantham, Will Merritt, John Miller, Sam Orr, Bob Pantle, Margaret Pepper, Bill Pepper, Kit Price, Lloyd Price, Howard Spendelow, Jeff Spendelow, Hannah Suthers, Mabel Warburton, and Bob Yunick.

Deep appreciation is extended to the banders and their many assistants who give their time and effort to help in our station project.

SHIP BOTTOM, N.J. - Dorothy & Roger Foy

As is the custom, this station is operated year round, but this report will cover the period 1 August 1973 through 31 October, 1973. The station is located at 393-0741 and a description of the area can be found in EBBA NEWS, 34(4).

Having only two weeks vacation instead of the usual three to four in the Fall of 1973 we did not interrupt our banding at Ship Bottom to band at Island Beach as in past years.

We encourage other banders who leave their permanent banding stations for a week or two during migration to "stay put" because the "grass is NOT always greener" over the fence, as we found out! By remaining at Ship Bottom throughout the entire Fall migration 8/1 to 10/31/73 we banded more birds in relatively the same net hours as if we had split our time between Ship Bottom and Island Beach. In the 33 days we banded at our home station we banded 1,796 birds of 75 species during this migration.

After 9 days of over 90 degrees heat we had a welcome change by the way of a small cold front from the NW beginning Sept. 7th. The next three days were predominately "thrush days". (From the start of migration until the end of September we noticed an almost total absence of Red-wings and Starlings, more so this year than previous ones. In Ship Bottom the Starling is not the "inescapable" and obnoxious bird it is in other areas (Island Beach for example). Winter would be rather dull at times without this bird since it is beneficial besides having a character and personality completely its own. It's intelligent and immaculate and runs the gamut from aggressive to docile. As a side note the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*) and the Hill Mynah are in the Starling family - Sturnidae. Anyone who has had a Mynah as a pet knows well of its intelligence and capacity for developing individual repertoires and the vocal characteristics of its owner. Starlings in our area can imitate the Cardinal, Redwing and Cowbird).