

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).

As usual, all birds were aged, sexed, weighed and fat classed. Our greatest interests in the Fall migration were our continuing studies of ageing and sexing the American Redstart (see EBBA NEWS 37(1):43-44), the House Finch and Myrtle Warbler. We have found late afternoon (after 4:00 p.m.) netting almost as heavy as A.M. netting in over 25 of the 33 days.

HY vs. AHY

Once again we had a decided preponderance of HY birds. 60% were HY, 37% were U, and 3% were AHY. A three year comparison is made as follows:

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|--------------|-----------------------|------------|---------|---------------|
| <u>1971:</u> | 699 banded | 53 species | 33 days | 549 net hours |
| | HY 73%; U 21%; AHY 6% | | | |
| <u>1972:</u> | 1,459 banded | 61 species | 32 days | 801 net hours |
| | HY 62%; U 34%; AHY 4% | | | |
| <u>1973:</u> | 1,796 banded | 75 species | 32 days | 800 net hours |
| | HY 60%; U 37%; AHY 3% | | | |

Prevailing species: Red-winged Blackbird, 244 (14% of total); Myrtle Warbler, 170 (10% of total); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 154 (8% of total); White-throated Sparrow, 120 (7% of total); Brown Creeper, 107 (6% of total birds). These species all increased over 1972 except one - the Golden-crowned Kinglet decreased.

Most interesting species: Savannah Sparrow, Philadelphia Vireo and Lincoln's Sparrow. These birds are rather scarce on our Island, due probably to the lack of underbrush and/or trees.

New birds for Station: Kestrel, Dickcissel, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Clapper Rail, Carolina Wren, and Barn Swallow.

Returns: Song Sparrow (3); Common Grackle (1); Red-winged Blackbird (7); Mourning Dove (1); Mockingbird (1); Total 13.

Thrushes are increasing: We, as a Station have only been in the Atlantic Flyway Review three years but since the beginning (1971) we have noticed an increase in Thrushes.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Gray-cheeked: | 1971: 6 | 1972: 8 | 1973: 11 |
| Hermit | 11 | 31 | 45 |
| Swainson's | 4 | 11 | 28 |
| Wood | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Veery | 1 | 0 | 12 |
| Robin | 9 | 7 | 52 |

Best Day: There was no "big day" such as happened in 1972 with 245 birds when the nets were closed at 1600 because the birds

were heavy and there was only one bander with no help. In 1973 the best day was October 7th with 128 birds; the rest of that week we did 100 or so each day, so possibly the heavy influx spread itself over several days instead of one big one.

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Our sincere thanks to Mr. Bruce Adams for editing and coordination AFR-Region IV, and to the three parties who contributed to this feature. We have taken the liberty to slightly shorten some of the passages in order to make the entire compilation fit in this much shortened issue of EBBA NEWS. Editor

FROM MRS BRADLEY FISK COMES THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: "Have you seen the Pinkowski, B.C., article in the May-June issue of Inland Bird Banding News, Vol. 46, No.3: CRITERIA FOR SEXING EASTERN BLUEBIRDS IN JUVENILE PLUMAGE? Perhaps you could call attention to it in a note as many banders have Bluebird trails and band young (I hope)!"

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir:

In EBBA NEWS 37:82, Mrs. Warburton speaks of a number of late Baltimore Oriole records, in January and February. I should like to point out that the Morrisville, Pennsylvania area, and my banding area at Ship Bottom, N.J. (EBBA NEWS, 36:214), cannot be compared in the same light. The former is an inland station, while the latter is situated on the outer coast. Mrs. Warburton and Edna Donelson's birds may well be the latest Baltimore Oriole records in the Northeast; however, the Baltimore Oriole banded and sighted at the Ship Bottom location may be the latest Baltimore Oriole record along the coast of New Jersey. This phenomenon was checked with Mr. Donald S. Heintzelman, formerly of the New Jersey State Museum, before the original note was published in EBBA NEWS. Mr. Heintzelman concurs that to his knowledge, the Baltimore Oriole of Ship Bottom, N.J., could well be the latest record to be banded at a coastal station.

--Mrs. Roger W. Foy, Box 164, Ship Bottom, N.J. 08008